United Nations A/56/406–S/2001/907

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
25 September 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 166
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 24 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the latest Palestinian terrorist attack that claimed the life of an Israeli woman this morning.

Sal'it Sheetrit, aged 28, was travelling with her husband near the village of Bardaleh in the northern Jordan Valley, when gunmen in a passing vehicle opened fire on their car shortly after 6.30 a.m. (local time) this morning. Sheetrit sustained gunshots to the head and died minutes later from her wounds. The terrorist organization Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack.

The murder of Sal'it Sheetrit is the latest incident in the ongoing Palestinian campaign of terrorism that has been detailed in my letters dated 20 September 2001 (A/56/386-S/2001/892), 17 September 2001 (A/56/367-S/2001/875), 7 September 2001 (A/56/346-S/2001/858), 4 September 2001 (A/56/331-S/2001/840), 30 August 2001 (A/56/325-S/2001/834), 27 August 2001 (A/56/324-S/2001/825), 13 August 2001 (A/56/294-S/2001/787), 9 August 2001 (A/56/286-S/2001/780), 8 August 2001 (A/56/280-S/2001/775), 6 August 2001 (A/56/272-S/2001/768), 27 July 2001 (A/56/225-S/2001/743), 26 July 2001 (A/56/223-S/2001/737), 17 July 2001 (A/56/201-S/2001/706), 13 July 2001 (A/56/184-S/2001/696), 3 July 2001 (A/56/138-S/2001/662), 2 July 2001 (A/56/131-S/2001/656), 21 June 2001 (A/56/119-S/2001/619), 19 June 2001 (A/56/98-S/2001/611), 18 June 2001 (A/56/97-S/2001/604), 13 June 2001 (A/56/92-S/2001/585), 11 June 2001 (A/56/91-S/2001/580), 4 June 2001 (A/56/85-S/2001/555), 30 May 2001 (A/56/81-S/2001/540), 25 May 2001 (A/56/80-S/2001/524), 18 May 2001 (A/56/78-S/2001/506), 11 May 2001 (A/56/72-S/2001/473), 9 May 2001 (A/56/69-S/2001/459), 1 May 2001 (A/55/924-S/2001/435), 23 April 2001 (A/55/910-S/2001/396), 16 April 2001 (A/55/901-S/2001/364), 28 March 2001 (A/55/863-S/2001/291), 27 March 2001 (A/55/860-S/2001/280), 26 March 2001 (A/55/858-S/2001/278), 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-

01-55151 (E) 260901

S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

The State of Israel holds the Palestinian Authority responsible for this attack in the light of its continued incitement to violence and terrorism, its open collusion with terrorist organizations, and the active role played by members of its security services in planning and implementing these attacks. In flagrant violation of signed agreements with Israel, the Palestinian leadership has freed convicted terrorists from prison and granted them safe harbour in the territory under its control.

Moreover, both today's murder, and the murder of Sarit Amrani that was referred to in my letter dated 20 September 2001 (A/56/386-S/2001/892), come just days after Chairman Arafat called on his forces to cease their fire. Such deadly crimes drain Chairman Arafat's declarations of their substance. What is required is concerted action that produces tangible results on the ground.

Israel calls, once again, on Chairman Arafat to take the actions to which he has committed himself, namely, to renounce the use of violence and terror and to prevent all acts of terror from being perpetrated against Israeli civilians. The Palestinian leadership must act to end incitement in the official Palestinian media and educational institutions, arrest terrorists engaged in planning attacks against Israel, and desist from harbouring terrorists in the areas under its jurisdiction.

In the wake of the recent terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., the international community is all the more obliged to unequivocally condemn these actions, make clear that such behaviour has no place in civil society, and call on the Palestinian Authority to renounce all acts of, and support for, terrorism and return to the path of peaceful negotiations. Terrorism cannot be viewed as a remote threat; its very existence is a threat to peace and security in every corner of the world.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/56/407–S/2001/909

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 September 2001
English
Original: French

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 166
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 25 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the text of the conclusions and plan of action of the extraordinary European Council of 21 September 2001 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean **De Ruyt**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Belgium
to the United Nations

01-55298 (E) 270901 270901

Annex to the identical letters dated 25 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

CONCLUSIONS AND PLAN OF ACTION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2001

The European Council met in extraordinary session on 21 September 2001 in order to analyse the international situation following the terrorist attacks in the United States and to impart the necessary impetus to the actions of the European Union.

Terrorism is a real challenge to the world and to Europe. The European Council has decided that the fight against terrorism will, more than ever, be a priority objective of the European Union.

Moreover, the European Union categorically rejects any equation of groups of fanatical terrorists with the Arab and Muslim world.

The European Council reaffirms its firm determination to act in concert in all circumstances.

1. SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES

The European Council is totally supportive of the American people in the face of the deadly terrorist attacks. These attacks are an assault on our open, democratic, tolerant and multicultural societies. They are a challenge to the conscience of each human being. The European Union will cooperate with the United States in bringing to justice and punishing the perpetrators, sponsors and accomplices of such barbaric acts. On the basis of Security Council Resolution 1368, a riposte by the US is legitimate. The Member States of the Union are prepared to undertake such actions, each according to its means. The actions must be targeted and may also be directed against States abetting, supporting or harbouring terrorists. They will require close cooperation with all the Member States of the European Union.

Furthermore, the European Union calls for the broadest possible global coalition against terrorism, under United Nations aegis. In addition to the European Union and the United States, that coalition should include at least the candidate countries, the Russian Federation, our Arab and Muslim partners and any other country ready to defend our common values. The European Union will step up its action against terrorism through a coordinated and inter-disciplinary approach embracing all Union policies. It will ensure that that approach is reconciled with respect for the fundamental freedoms which form the basis of our civilisation.

2. THE EUROPEAN POLICY TO COMBAT TERRORISM

The European Council approves the following plan of action:

- ***Enhancing police and judicial cooperation***

1. In line with its conclusions at Tampere, the European Council signifies its agreement to the introduction of a European arrest warrant and the adoption of a common definition of terrorism. The warrant will supplant the current system of extradition between Member States. Extradition procedures do not at present reflect the level of integration and confidence between Member States of the European Union. Accordingly, the European arrest warrant will allow wanted persons to be handed over directly from one judicial authority to another. In parallel, fundamental rights and freedoms will be guaranteed.

The European Council directs the Justice and Home Affairs Council to flesh out that agreement and to determine the relevant arrangements, as a matter of urgency and at the latest at its meeting on 6 and 7 December 2001.

In addition, the European Council instructs the Justice and Home Affairs Council to implement as quickly as possible the entire package of measures decided on at the European Council meeting in Tampere.

2. The European Council calls upon the Justice and Home Affairs Council to undertake identification of presumed terrorists in Europe and of organisations supporting them in order to draw up a common list of terrorist organisations. In this connection improved cooperation and exchange of information between all intelligence services of the Union will be required. Joint investigation teams will be set up to that end.

3. Member States will share with Europol, systematically and without delay, all useful data regarding terrorism. A specialist anti-terrorist team will be set up within Europol as soon as possible and will cooperate closely with its US counterparts.

The European Council trusts that a cooperation agreement will be concluded between Europol and the relevant US authorities by the end of the year.

- ***Developing international legal instruments***

4. The European Council calls for all existing international conventions on the fight against terrorism (UN, OECD, etc.) to be implemented as quickly as possible. The European Union supports the Indian proposal for framing within the United Nations a general convention against international terrorism, which should enhance the impact of the measures taken over the last twenty-five years under UN aegis.

- ***Putting an end to the funding of terrorism***

5. Combating the funding of terrorism is a decisive aspect. Energetic international action is required to ensure that that fight is fully effective. The European Union will contribute to the full. To that end, the European Council calls upon the ECOFIN and Justice and Home Affairs Councils to take the necessary measures to combat any form of financing for terrorist activities, in particular by adopting in the weeks to come the extension of the Directive on money laundering and the framework Decision on freezing assets. It calls upon Member States to sign and ratify as a matter of urgency the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. In addition, measures will be taken again non-cooperative countries and territories identified by the Financial Action Task Force.

- ***Strengthening air security***

6. The European Council calls upon the Transport Council to take the necessary measures to strengthen air transport security at its next meeting on 15 October. These measures will cover in particular:

- classification of weapons;
- technical training for crew;
- checking and monitoring of hold luggage;
- protection of cockpit access;
- quality control of security measures applied by Member States.

Effective and uniform application of air security measures will be ensured in particular by a peer review to be introduced in the very near future.

- ***Coordinating the European Union's global action***

7. The European Council instructs the General Affairs Council to assume the role of coordination and providing impetus in the fight against terrorism. Thus, the General Affairs Council will ensure greater consistency and coordination between all the Union's policies. The Common Foreign and Security Policy will have to integrate further the fight against terrorism. The European Council asks the General Affairs Council systematically to evaluate the European Union's relations with third countries in the light of the support which those countries might give to terrorism.

The General Affairs Council will submit an overall report on these issues to the next European Council.

3. THE UNION'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORLD

The fight against terrorism requires of the Union that it play a greater part in the efforts of the international community to prevent and stabilise regional conflicts. In particular, the European Union, in close collaboration with the United States, the Russian Federation and partners in the Arab and Muslim world, will make every endeavour to bring the parties to the Middle East conflict to a lasting understanding on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

It is by developing the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and by making the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) operational at the earliest opportunity that the Union will be most effective. The fight against the scourge of terrorism will be all the more effective if it is based on an in-depth political dialogue with those countries and regions of the world in which terrorism comes into being.

The integration of all countries into a fair world system of security, prosperity and improved development is the condition for a strong and sustainable community for combating terrorism.

The members of the European Council issue an appeal to the international community to pursue, in all multilateral fora, dialogue and negotiation with a view to building, at home and elsewhere, a world of peace, the rule of law and tolerance. In this respect, the European Council emphasises the need to combat any nationalist, racist and xenophobic drift, just as it rejects any equation of terrorism with the Arab and Muslim world.

The European Union will give special attention to the problem of refugee flows.
The European Council asks the Commission to set up urgently an aid programme particularly for Afghan refugees.

4. WORLD ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

The events of 11 September mean that the slowdown of the economy will be more pronounced than foreseen. The members of the European Council will remain vigilant. The members of the European Council welcome the concerted action by the European Central Bank, the US Federal Reserve Bank and other central banks, on both sides of the Atlantic, which should provide the financial markets with further leeway.

The European Council calls upon the Commission to submit an analysis of trends in the economic situation and any recommendations to the next European Council.

Stability, which is the fruit of the policies and structural reforms put in place by the European Union over latter years, is enabling the Union to face up to such a situation. Thanks to the single currency, the countries of the euro zone are sheltered from the shocks associated with monetary fluctuations. The forthcoming putting into circulation of the euro will make it possible for each of us to become aware of the positive effects of this increased stability.

At the same time, the efforts made to consolidate public finances have provided the necessary room for manoeuvre to enable automatic stabilisers to come into play. They have also enabled the European Central Bank to play a central role in facing up to the shock affecting European economies. In the present circumstances, such action should suffice to restore consumer confidence. The European Council reaffirms its commitment to respect the framework, rules and application in full of the stability and growth pact.

The European Council welcomes the decision of OPEC to ensure the continuity of oil supplies.

* * *

The European Council has asked the Presidency to establish contact with the candidate countries for accession so that the latter may associate themselves with these conclusions.

The European Council has decided to send a ministerial troika mission to present the European Union's position to certain partners, particularly in the Middle East.

The European Council has asked the Presidency of the European Union to convey and explain the outcome of the extraordinary European Council meeting on 21 September 2001 to the highest authorities of the United States.

United Nations A/56/408

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 September 2001
English
Original: Russian

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 35, 74, 97 and 166

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

General and complete disarmament

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 25 September 2001 from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of the joint Russian-Armenian communiqué adopted by the President of Armenia, Mr. R. S. Kocharian, and the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. V. V. Putin, in Yerevan on 15 September 2001 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under items 35, 74, 97 and 166 of the agenda for the fifty-sixth session.

(*Signed*) Movses **Abelian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

01-55357 (E) 270901 270901

Annex to the letter dated 25 September 2001 from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Russian-Armenian communiqué

At the invitation of the President of Armenia, Mr. R. S. Kocharian, the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. V. V. Putin, made an official visit to Armenia on 14 and 15 September 2001.

During talks which took place in an atmosphere of full mutual understanding and harmony, the heads of State engaged in a fruitful exchange of views on the current issues and prospects of Russian-Armenian relations, as well as on international and regional problems of common interest.

The sides noted that the tragic events in the United States of America had highlighted with new force the need for comprehensive intensification of the joint efforts to combat international terrorism and for the uniting of the international community's efforts to counter that scourge of the twenty-first century.

The parties noted that mutual respect, equality of rights and taking account of each other's interests are the key principles of the strengthening of relations of cooperation as allies between the Russian Federation and Armenia. The resolve to continue the policy of expanding Russian-Armenian dialogue in the political, economic and other spheres was confirmed.

After expressing their desire for the further development of bilateral relations, the sides emphasized the need to intensify trade and economic cooperation. In this connection, they noted the importance of economic integration and of encouraging mutual investments by creating joint enterprises based on various forms of ownership.

Noting the existence of a valuable basis of treaty law between the two States, the sides considered that there was a need for its further improvement.

Noting the useful work done by the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between the Russian Federation and Armenia to prepare for the official visit by the President of the Russian Federation to Armenia, the sides noted that the Commission's purposeful and consistent work was capable of greatly facilitating the increased effectiveness of trade and economic cooperation and of bringing its level to that of Russian-Armenian political relations.

The sides noted with satisfaction the high level of cooperation in the military and military equipment spheres, which was intended to ensure the security of the two countries and was not directed against any third party. The sides expressed their readiness to continue in the future to intensify cooperation in that sphere.

The President of the Russian Federation and the President of Armenia confirmed their commitment to the maintenance and strengthening of the close spiritual and cultural ties between the peoples of the two countries.

The sides expressed their intention of continuing to encourage contacts between social, scientific, sports and youth organizations.

An exchange of views also took place on international problems, including issues of regional multilateral cooperation in the economic and other spheres.

Special attention was paid to the settlement of the Nagorny-Karabakh conflict. The sides confirmed their commitment to solving it exclusively by peaceful means, taking into account the relevant norms and principles of international law.

The sides expressed support for the strengthening of bilateral and multilateral cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Treaty on Collective Security, and also noted the importance of cooperation within the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and other international organizations.

The sides agreed to continue the practice of holding ongoing bilateral consultations at various levels on issues of international relations and regional policy, cooperation in various international organizations and other issues of common interest.

The conviction was expressed that the official visit by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. V. V. Putin, would make an extremely important contribution to the further intensification of bilateral cooperation.

Mr. Putin expressed deep gratitude for the warm and cordial welcome extended to him on the hospitable soil of Armenia.

United Nations A/56/409

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 September 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 119 (c)
Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

Note by the Secretary-General*

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly a brief interim report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan prepared by Kamal Hossain, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/13 of 18 April 2001 and Economic and Social Council decision 2001/249 of 24 July 2001.

* In accordance with section C, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution 54/248, the present report is being submitted on 26 September 2001, so as to take into account the Economic and Social Council mandate and as much updated information as possible.

01-55474 (E) 221001

Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Introduction	1–5	3
II.	Recent developments in Afghanistan	6–31	3
III.	Serious violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law	32–59	7
IV.	Deepening humanitarian crisis, deprivation of economic and social rights and need for increased humanitarian assistance	60–72	12
V.	Concluding observations	73–76	15

I. Introduction

1. This is the sixth report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan. The first three reports (E/CN.4/1999/40, A/54/422 and E/CN.4/2000/33) were submitted following visits to Kabul and Kandahar, and to Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta, where Afghan refugee groups were interviewed. The fourth report (A/55/346) was submitted following a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran where Afghan refugees in Mashhad and Tehran were interviewed. The fifth report (E/CN.4/2001/43 and Add.1) was presented to the Commission following a visit to Pakistan in March 2001, where refugees and other persons conversant with the facts were interviewed in Peshawar and Islamabad. The Special Rapporteur had proposed a visit to Afghanistan in September 2000 and thereafter renewed his request for a visit in January 2001, but the Taliban authorities replied that they were not able to receive him because of their urgent preoccupations. In the course of his visit to Pakistan in March 2001, the Special Rapporteur met with the Taliban Ambassador to Pakistan, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, and renewed his request for visiting Afghanistan. The Ambassador indicated that a visa may be issued for Kabul, but that access to Bamyan would not be possible. The Special Rapporteur addressed a request for a visit in July but received no response.

2. The Special Rapporteur had visited Pakistan on an emergency basis following reports of gross violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law, including summary execution of civilians, allegedly committed in the course of resumed conflict, in particular in Hazarajat. There had also been reports of increased flows of refugees into Pakistan and in the Islamic Republic of Iran, resulting in the deepening of the humanitarian crisis. The addendum to the fifth report had recorded mounting concern with regard to reports of summary executions, reprisal killings and massacres in recent years, as a result of continued conflict and the taking and retaking of particular areas by warring parties.

3. A recurrent pattern is manifest from the (not exhaustive) list of such occurrences reported over the past four-year period, as follows: Mazar-i-Sharif/ Dasht-i-Laili (Shebergan) in May 1997; Mazar-i-Sharif Airport (Qezelabad) in September 1997; Qaysar in December 1997; Mazar-i-Sharif in August 1998; Kayan valley in August 1998; Bamyan in May 1999; Shamali plains in August 1999; Khwaja Ghar in Takhar province in September 1999; Ghosfandi in Sar-i-Pul province in January 2000; Robatak in Samangan province in May 2000; Taloqan in Takhar province in September 2000; Yakawlang in Bamyan province in January 2001; Khwaja Ghar in Takhar province in January 2001; and Bamyan in February 2001.

4. The reports of summary executions carried out in Yakawlang in January 2001, for which reliable reports, including statements of many eyewitnesses, were available prompted the recommendation that a more thorough investigation be undertaken to gather evidence to establish the exact circumstances in which civilians had been detained and executed, as well as to identify those responsible for such breaches of international humanitarian law. While the follow-up investigation was under way, there were reports of further summary executions in Yakawlang in May and June 2001. A substantial body of evidence having now been gathered from reliable sources on the latest massacres in and around Yakawlang, the present report presents, in part III, a summary of the preliminary findings.

5. Part II of the report contains a review of developments in Afghanistan from March to August 2001, including continuing efforts to promote peace, the military situation and other developments related to Afghanistan. Part III deals with serious violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law arising out of the armed conflict. Part IV deals with the deepening humanitarian crisis, deprivation of economic and social rights and the need for increased humanitarian assistance. Part V contains concluding observations.

II. Recent developments in Afghanistan

A. Visit of the Secretary-General

6. The Secretary-General visited Pakistan in March 2001 as part of a tour of the south Asian region, during which he discussed aspects of the situation in Afghanistan with the President, the Chief Executive and the Foreign Minister. He also met the Taliban Foreign Minister, Wakil Ahmad Mutawakkil. He met Afghan refugees at the Shamshatoo refugee camp near

Peshawar, but was unable to visit the Jalozai camp. While expressing the international community's appreciation to Pakistan for having hosted millions of Afghan refugees over the past two decades, the Secretary-General appealed that those Afghans who had recently entered Pakistan be allowed to remain and secured the agreement that Pakistan would facilitate provision of immediate relief assistance to the nearly 80,000 refugees at the Jalozai camp. For its part, the United Nations, it was assured, would redouble its efforts to provide assistance to Afghans inside Afghanistan in order to discourage further outflows.

7. In his meeting with Mr. Mutawakkil, the Secretary-General impressed upon the Foreign Minister the importance of the Taliban respecting the terms of the written agreement arrived at on 2 November 2000, whereby the two parties to the conflict agreed to pursue a process of dialogue under the auspices of the Secretary-General from which neither side would unilaterally withdraw until all the items on its agenda were exhausted. The Secretary-General urged the Taliban to reconsider its decision to reject the mediating role of the United Nations, taken following the imposition of sanctions. The Secretary-General stressed that only through the United Nations could a comprehensive political solution be reached. He also dealt with the issue of the imminent destruction of all statues, including the historic Bamyan Buddha statues, following an order of the head of the Taliban movement, Mullah Mohammad Omar, based on a fatwa (edict) by Afghan ulemas. It had been urged that the implementation of the order be halted, at least temporarily, until a group of international Islamic scholars could confer with the Afghan ulemas and also explore various alternatives for removing the statues for safekeeping outside Afghanistan. Mr. Mutawakkil, however, indicated that this was a domestic issue based purely on Islamic principles, and ignored the opinion of other Muslim States and that of the Mufti of the Republic of Egypt, who had travelled to Kandahar in connection with this issue.

B. Activities of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan

8. The Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and head of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSMA) had several meetings with the Afghan warring sides, with whom he pursued a possible agenda that could be finalized for a dialogue envisaged in the 2 November 2000 agreement. The Taliban, however, informed him that, in view of the imminent adoption by the Security Council of new sanctions against the Taliban, it could no longer accept the United Nations as an impartial broker and would therefore not be willing to engage in dialogue under United Nations auspices. It indicated that it might accept an invitation from the Government of Uzbekistan in late January for a meeting of the two sides, but only if the United Nations were excluded. The Uzbek Government declined to proceed on that basis. The United Front, however, continued to regard it as essential for any dialogue with the Taliban to be held in the presence of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General.

C. Discussions with the Afghan warring sides

9. The discussions with both sides were in-depth and far-ranging and covered the military situation on the ground, prospects for a ceasefire and a political settlement, the role of the United Nations in future negotiations, human rights-related issues, the relations of the two warring sides with neighbouring and other countries, the sanctions adopted by the Security Council, their respective political programmes and their vision of how the Afghan conflict might be settled and their reaction to proposals for the convening of an extraordinary Loya Jirga and the role of the former king in contacts with non-warring Afghan groups abroad.

10. No talks, direct or indirect, have taken place between the two sides during the period under review. The Taliban has persisted in its refusal to carry out the written agreement of 2 November 2000 to start a process of dialogue with the United Front, citing what it considers to be a lack of impartiality by the United Nations in the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1333 (2000). The Taliban also refused an invitation by the Government of Japan for the two warring sides to visit Tokyo in May on the ground that the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General would be represented at that meeting.

D. Discussions with non-belligerent Afghans

11. The Personal Representative continued to engage in intensive dialogue with relevant Afghan personalities and non-belligerent groups outside Afghanistan which support the convening of a special Loya Jirga. On 16 May 2001, he met with the former king Mohammad Zaher Shah, and with members of the Rome Process Executive Committee.

E. Contact with concerned Governments

12. During the period under review, the Personal Representative visited Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and held discussions with senior officials in Britain, France, Germany and the United States of America.

F. Status of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan

13. The Civil Affairs Unit continued its efforts to promote peace and human rights awareness in Afghanistan by conducting a regular dialogue with the political authorities and observing political, human rights, social and economic trends in the country. The Taliban threatened to close UNSMA offices in Afghanistan at the time of the imposition of sanctions. Following a discussion between the Personal Representative and Mr. Mutawakkil, the Unit remained active in five major urban centres, namely, Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat and Kandahar, in addition to Faizabad (which is under the control of the United Front).

14. Since mid-May, the Mission's presence in Taliban-held territory has been confined to Kabul following a formal Taliban request in late April for the early closure of all UNSMA offices, apparently in retaliation for the formal closure of the Taliban office in New York. While the Permanent Representative had received assurances from the Taliban authorities that UNSMA would be able to resume its functions, their subsequent action belied this expectation. The UNSMA office in Kabul remains operational, staffed by a political officer and two civil affairs officers. The civil affairs officers in Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Mazar-i-Sharif have been relocated to Islamabad, where they conduct regular visits to Peshawar and Quetta, where there are large concentrations of Afghans and to United Front areas in the north-east. A suboffice has been established in the Panjshir valley.

G. Other developments

15. In April 2001, the Taliban dismissed approximately 9,000 civil servants, allegedly on suspicion of their having been associated with the Najibullah Government.

16. On 16 April, the Taliban head of the Council of Ministers, Mullah Mohammad Rabbani, considered second in standing to Mullah Omar, died after a long illness in Islamabad.

17. In May, a Taliban media report quoted the Minister for the Promotion of Virtue and the Eradication of Vice to the effect that the Taliban was considering making non-Muslim citizens wear identity labels on their clothing to distinguish them from Muslims and thus prevent them from being unnecessarily harassed by the Vice and Virtue squads who regularly sought to ensure that men kept their beards untrimmed and attended mosque at prayer times.

18. In pursuit of the Taliban's declared policy of Islamization, the curriculum for the new school year reflected an increase in Islamic-related subjects. In July, the Taliban banned the use of the Internet and the importation of 30 items including musical instruments, chessboards, playing cards, tapes, nail polish and neckties.

19. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees visited Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. He met the President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Taliban Foreign Minister, and proposed a six-month humanitarian ceasefire. His proposal was welcomed by Professor Rabbani, but rejected by the Taliban.

20. On 4 May, a bomb exploded in a local mosque in Herat, killing a dissident Sunni Iranian cleric and several other civilians. This was followed by an attack by a group of locals against the Iranian Consulate General in the city. The Consulate was ransacked and its personnel evacuated.

21. During the reporting period, Zaher Shah, the former king of Afghanistan, sent delegations to the

Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. In mid-June, the United States State Department released a poll of some 5,000 Afghans from 27 provinces of Afghanistan, in which reportedly 50 per cent expressed the view that Zaher Shah was the leader who could most successfully address the problems facing Afghanistan at present. The other Afghan personalities in the questionnaire scored 11 per cent or below.

H. International developments related to Afghanistan

22. The situation in Afghanistan was the subject of high-level contacts among Governments throughout the period. In late April, in official talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, both Governments agreed that there was no military solution to the Afghan conflict and that the two warring sides should come together to establish a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

23. In their 15 June declaration on the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Presidents of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan agreed to cooperate closely in the implementation of the Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism, and to establish a regional anti-terrorist structure with headquarters in Bishkek.

24. The United States-Russian Working Group on Afghanistan, chaired by United States Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, which met in Washington, D.C., on 24 and 25 May, agreed that the situation in Afghanistan, and especially the Taliban support for terrorism, continued to be a threat to the interests of both countries, as well as to regional and international stability, that only a political solution could lead to peace in Afghanistan and that it would support further steps to develop an effective monitoring mechanism for United Nations sanctions.

25. At their summit meeting held in Genoa in July 2001, the leaders of the Group of Eight major industrialized countries reiterated their concern over the growing terrorist threat originating from Afghanistan, urged the Taliban to comply with Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000) and expressed support for United Nations and other efforts to advance a peace process through political negotiations between Afghan parties or through a mechanism such as a Loya Jirga.

26. Following a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, who introduced a report of the Secretary-General on the humanitarian implications of the measures imposed through Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000), the Council members discussed the report. In a press statement on Afghanistan issued by the then President of the Security Council, Wang Yingfan of China, the Council members noted the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report, including the fact that the sanctions have a limited impact on the humanitarian situation, and that persistent conflict is the main cause which led to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation. They further noted that the humanitarian exemptions mechanism of the sanctions regime operated smoothly in general and expressed appreciation for the further efforts by the Sanctions Committee to make the mechanism more effective. The Council members expressed concern about the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, appealed to the international community to continue to make generous contributions, and emphasized the need to ensure the security and safety of humanitarian personnel and smooth operation of humanitarian activities.

27. The Security Council on 30 July unanimously approved resolution 1363 (2001), in which it requested the Secretary-General to establish within 30 days a mechanism for a period running concurrently with the application of the measures imposed under resolution 1333 (2000):

(a) To monitor the implementation of the measures imposed by resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000);

(b) To offer assistance to States bordering the territory of Afghanistan under Taliban control and other States, as appropriate, to increase their capacity regarding the implementation of the measures imposed by resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000);

(c) To collate, assess, verify wherever possible, report and make recommendations on information regarding violations of the measures imposed by resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000).

The monitoring mechanism would comprise:

(a) A New York-based Monitoring Group composed of up to five experts, including a Chairman, to monitor the implementation of all the measures imposed under resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000), including in the field of arms embargoes, counter-terrorism and related legislation and, in view of the link to the purchase of arms and financing of terrorism, money laundering, financial transactions and drug trafficking;

(b) A Sanctions Enforcement Support Team, under the coordination of the Monitoring Group, comprising up to 15 members with expertise in areas such as: customs, border security and counter-terrorism, to be located in those States referred to in paragraph 2 of the resolution (bordering the territory of Afghanistan under Taliban control), in full consultation and in close cooperation with those States.

I. Military situation

28. While continuous fighting took place throughout Afghanistan since the beginning of 2001, there has been a marked increase in hostilities since the beginning of May, with both warring factions continuing to reinforce the main confrontation line in the Takhar province of which Taloqan is the capital. In early May, fighting broke out in the Farkhar Gorge east of Taloqan, with Taliban forces launching at the beginning of June a major offensive on the Chal district and in the Gorge. The United Front on its part launched an unsuccessful attack late June from Khwaja Ghar towards Taloqan. The fighting subsided during the first two weeks of July (except for continued exchange of heavy fire) allowing both sides time for regrouping and reinforcement. Fighting resumed south of Taloqan on 19 July, but its intensity declined after two days. Although there had been some minor changes in the territory controlled by the two sides along the confrontation line, no significant gains have been achieved by either side to date.

29. Major fighting is expected south and north of Taloqan and even to intensify, both sides having deployed a large number of troops along the northern part of the confrontation line. The Taliban is expected to continue attacking along the northern part of the line, with the aim of cutting the United Front supply road which runs from the ferry on the Tajik-Afghan border, north of Dasht-i-Qala, in order to take the Farkhar Gorge which is the key to Badakhshan province where the United Front has its capital. The United Front is expected to concentrate its forces to defend the Gorge, as well as Khwaja Ghar and Dasht-i-Qala, and to attempt the recapture of Taloqan. There has also been ongoing exchange of fire between Taliban and United Front fighters on the islands on the Amu Darya near Emam-e Saheb, where some 10,000 displaced persons, including United Front fighters, are concentrated along the Tajikistan border.

30. Forces under General Dostom, who reportedly returned to Afghanistan in April, are based in Sar-e Pul province. After launching an unsuccessful attack in Balkh province, they have concentrated their military activities in the provinces of Badghis and Faryab without any gains. The former Governor of Herat, Ismail Khan, reportedly arrived in Ghor province in May and has effectively strengthened his position in that province, cutting off the roads to Chaghcharan.

31. The forces of the Hezb-e Wahdat leader, Karim Khalili, have remained active in Bamyan province. They have repeatedly captured and lost Yakawlang which, after being devastated by the Taliban, was recaptured by and remains under Hezb-e Wahdat control since 11 June. The Taliban reportedly has taken up positions east of Bamyan city.

III. Serious violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law

32. In his fifth report to the Commission on Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur, having noted that the spokesman for the Secretary-General referred to numerous reports of widespread summary execution by the Taliban of civilians in Yakawlang district of the Bamyan province, mostly in villages around Nayak (the estimates range from 100 to several hundred), as well as mass arrests, had drawn attention to those reports. The Secretary-General, on 19 January 2001, issued a statement expressing concern about "numerous terrible reports" that civilians were deliberately targeted and killed in Yakawlang and calling upon the Taliban to take "immediate steps to control its forces", adding that the reports required "prompt investigation" and that those responsible should "be brought to justice". The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in her statement published on 16 February 2001, called for an international investigation

into massacres and other serious abuses committed by warring parties in Afghanistan, including the reported summary executions in Yakawlang.

33. The Special Rapporteur, on receiving these reports, made an emergency visit to Pakistan in March 2001 and was able to collect reliable evidence of summary executions and massacres carried out in January 2001 in Yakawlang, which substantially confirmed the reports contained in the Human Rights Watch report published on 19 February 2001. An addendum to the fifth report was presented, in which attention was drawn to reports that search parties had been organized to round up male civilians in house-to-house searches between 8 to 12 January 2001, after the Taliban forces reached the district centre of Nayak in the morning of 8 January 2001. Those rounded up were detained and many of them reportedly executed. A number of execution sites and sites of mass graves had also been identified, as had some of the commanders involved in the Yakawlang operation.

34. The fifth report had reflected widespread concern about the fact that, in recent years, the continued conflict and the taking and retaking of particular areas by warring parties had resulted in civilian massacres involving "reprisal" killings and summary executions. The recurrent pattern of massacres re .rred to in paragraph 2 above warranted the taking of effective measures by the international community to prevent them. It was felt that the impunity hitherto enjoyed by those responsible for ordering and carrying out the massacres had contributed to the callous disregard for international humanitarian law and serious violations of human rights. In order to deter and prevent such atrocities, it was stressed that an international initiative was needed to document and denounce these occurrences, to take effective measures to prevent arms supplies and external financial support, including linkages to drug warlords and to expose and hold to account those responsible for war crimes, breaches of international humanitarian law and gross violations of human rights. The need was underlined for international cooperation to deny impunity and enforce accountability by developing mechanisms to undertake full investigations to gather evidence and to identify those responsible so that they may be brought to justice.

35. On the specific premise that there was enough material available to carry out a more thorough investigation into the Yakawlang massacre, it was recommended that an investigation be undertaken promptly to establish the exact circumstances in which civilians were detained and executed, as well as to identify those responsible. The possibility was also noted of investigators being able to gather substantial evidence from eyewitnesses and through visits to sites of execution and mass graves.

36. Follow-up investigations undertaken subsequently under the mandate of the Special Rapporteur have not only confirmed the reports from Human Rights Watch and other reliable sources, including eyewitnesses, but yielded evidence with regard to further atrocities, in many respects similar in nature to those of January 2001, carried out when the Taliban retook Yakawlang in May and June 2001. Those investigations have made it possible for a more detailed account of the massacres in Yakawlang in January 2001 and of summary executions and devastation caused by burning and looting in May and June, to be presented in the present report.

Yakawlang massacre, January 2001

37. Yakawlang, which was held by the Taliban forces, was retaken by Hezb-e Wahdat forces led by Karim Khalili of the United Front in late December 2000. The Taliban forces launched an operation to recapture Yakawlang on Sunday, 7 January 2001. They initially assembled forces in the centre of Bamyan, and then, unopposed, moved them by land to Ferooz Bahar. On 6 January, people in Yakawlang heard helicopters landing in Ferooz Bahar. Taliban forces attacked Khotal Suhaq in the night between 6 and 7 January and, after they overran the defences, advanced towards Nayak. On 7 January, Khalili withdrew all his forces from Nayak. The Taliban entered the city at around 1600 hours on 7 January 2001.

38. There was little movement of population in the face of the Taliban attack, partly because there was little warning and partly because people had hoped that they would not be targets of violence. Furthermore, it was mid-winter and snowfalls had blocked off the roads.

39. After taking over Nayak, the Taliban commanders established themselves in the main public buildings in the district centre and sent out search parties in a radius of approximately ten kilometres from the district centre. The search parties covered villages in the central Nayak valley and Darra Ali. Over the next three

days (Monday to Wednesday), the search parties rounded up male civilians and brought them back to the centre of the district where, under the supervision of the Taliban commanders they were sorted into young and old. The old were detained from one to two days; the young were sentenced to death by firing squad.

40. The two main places where the detainees were shot by firing squad were in central Nayak and outside Qala Arbab Hassan on the western approaches of Nayak.

41. In addition to men who were rounded up by the Taliban and brought to the centre, at least one group of civilians (from Kata Khana and Bidmushkin) voluntarily approached the Taliban in Nayak wanting to negotiate security for their villages. Some of them, too, ended up before the firing squad.

42. Taliban troops conducting search and round-up operations inflicted numerous beatings and killed several other civilians near their homes, that is to say, before reaching the firing squad. Some of the testimony received indicates that some of the victims were tortured prior to execution, particularly through bayoneting and mutilation by knives. There is at least one case of mutilation of a body of a firing squad victim by skinning.

43. The Taliban instructed the older men who had been spared the firing squad to assist in the loading of bodies onto trucks for disposal. The Taliban instructed these men to pile the bodies like wood stacks ("kode"). The main stacks of bodies were constructed outside Qala Arbab Hassan Khan. Smaller piles were also reported in central Nayak. The bodies were displayed in these stacks for about three days.

44. Most of the killing at this stage seems to have been indiscriminate, in the sense that all adult males in areas searched were rounded up and taken for execution. Even prominent local figures who had cooperated with the Taliban previously and assumed that this would have guaranteed their protection were killed during these three days. Taliban supporters killed in this way included Karaman, who had been underground during the Khalili occupation of Yakawlang and Chaman Zohar, the treasurer of Sufi Ghardezi, and the sons of Ahmad Harbab. Karaman was a senior Hazara military commander with the Taliban; he commanded troops for the Taliban in the battle for Bamyan and Shamali in 1999 and was the last defender of Yakawlang on 28 December 2000. He, along with Sutani and eight soldiers, were sheltered for two days in Darra Ali after Khalili's capture of Yakawlang. He was shot dead on Tuesday, 9 January, while walking from Surbolak to Darra Ali.

45. While some of the victims were combatants, the evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the target of the attacks was the civilian population.

46. The evidence indicates that the killings carried out in January can be broadly classified into the following four categories:

(a) Mass arrests of civilian males, followed by execution by firing squad;

(b) Wayside killings, in which (smaller) groups of people were arrested or stopped and killed close to where they had been stopped;

(c) Killings during search operations, in which individuals, generally arrested in their homes, were targeted for immediate execution;

(d) Torture and killing of targeted combatant prisoners.

(a) Mass arrests of civilian males followed by execution by firing squad

47. The majority of the victims, over 100, fall into this category. The victims include around 50 men from Darra Ali, executed by firing squad at Qala Mohammad Hassan Khan on 8 January, after having been arrested the same day and put through a screening process (with the aim of separating certain elderly and disabled men from the majority) at the Taliban operational headquarters in central Nayak; 11 from Mindayak executed by firing squad at the same execution site on 8 January, after being arrested on the same day; 22 from Kata Khana arrested the previous night; 10 of a group of elders at Kata Khana who were trying to surrender to the Taliban, arrested on 8 January and executed by firing squad in central Nayak following a screening carried out at the operational headquarters in central Nayak; about 13 of a group of elders from Bedmushkin who, like the elders from Kata Khana, were approaching the Taliban authorities to pledge allegiance, and who were executed on 8 January after being screened at the operational headquarters, and three others from Bedmushkin who were killed by a firing squad near the Qurghan crossroad. Some others from Akhundan, Kata Khana and Kushkak are also reported to be among the victims of summary

execution. The screening was conducted by the Taliban operational command and, in some cases, there was participation of non-Afghan members of the Taliban forces. Some of the executions by firing squad were also supervised by the Taliban operational command.

(b) Wayside killings

48. Some 17 civilian men were victims of on-the-spot wayside killings: three shopkeepers from Behsud, nine from Mindayak, two from Kotal Surhak and four at the foot of Sarbolagh hill.

(c) Killing during search operations

49. In seven incidents, 11 civilian persons were victims of summary execution, in some cases combined with torture and beating before execution, in the course of search operations. One victim is reported to have been beaten to death and another burnt alive.

(d) Torture and killing of targeted combatant prisoners

50. The evidence indicates that at least three members of the United Front forces were tortured and killed while detained by Taliban authorities. United Front commander Ustad Faqoor and his bodyguard were bound and tortured before being killed on 6 or 7 January, and Dagerwal Hayatollah was captured and tortured before being summarily executed on 22 January.

51. In addition to the above total of 130 killed, there are reports of an additional number of around 50 persons who were killed between 7 and 22 January 2001. Most of the killings took place on 8 January and some executions were carried out on 22 January, although it is reported that, on 10 January an amnesty had been announced and that a senior Taliban commander had announced that he had originally been authorized to carry out the executions over a seven-day period, but that this had subsequently been reduced by four days.

Mode of carrying out searches and summary executions

52. Successive groups of Taliban forces took part in the search operations. It is reported that, while the object of the searches was to look for men and weapons, the groups entered homes, where women and children were terrorized and in many cases food stocks and valuables were looted. There are also reports of these groups breaking into locked empty houses to loot the contents. A number of reports indicate that there were non-Afghan persons, in addition to Pashtuns and Tajiks, in these groups. Certain reports indicate that the population of Yakawlang was predominantly Shia, and that some of those conducting the searches described Shias as non-believers and infidels.

53. The looting was done on a large enough scale for it to have been visible to the public. Evidence of the scale and method of execution suggests that it could not have been done without the knowledge of the Taliban commanders. There is evidence of the violence and brutality used while searches were conducted, in particular, in the roadside or search killings. Some of the examples include a person being beaten to death in Kata Khana, another being burnt to death in Bedmushkin and others being stabbed with bayonets, as well as mutilation and at least one case of a boy in Bedmushkin being skinned. Torture of prisoners who were arrested included beatings with rifle butts and whipping with lengths of electric cable, as well as forcing them to stand barefoot in the snow for protracted periods.

Killings and other abuses against civilians in Yakawlang in May and June 2001

54. Yakawlang was reoccupied by Taliban forces between 5 May and 3 June 2001. Over this four-week period, Taliban patrols were sent through central and lower Yakawlang, penetrating as far as Daga. Reports indicate that some 30 civilians were killed during that period, including five persons from Shorshurey, five from Dahen Kanak, three from Nytaq and three from Tang Sapidak, as well as others from Gardan Andba, Sange Safedak, Khushdarra and Ghoor Shorea.

55. Following the loss of the district, the Taliban launched air raids from Kabul, bombing the district centre in Nayak. On 9 June, the Taliban force, led by commander Dadullah, led a column of 150 to 200 pickups with a force comprising mainly non-Afghan personnel. While advancing towards Nayak, they targeted civilian property, burning bazaars and roadside houses in the three western parts of Bamyan district, namely, Shahigan, Shibatoo and Kharghanatoo. The Hezb-e Wahdat (United Front) forces had again withdrawn, offering little resistance, enabling the Taliban forces to enter Nayak town, where they engaged in large-scale destruction, burning down much

of the town, including 800 shops in the old and new bazaars, a high school, a hospital and a mosque; they reportedly looted houses before burning them. They also raided and burnt other villages: reportedly, up to 500 houses were burnt in the Darra Ali valley and in the villages of Tajikan, Dahani Khanak, and Zareen. These operations were reportedly supported by aerial bombardment and use of helicopter gunships, which targeted civilian populations which had sought refuge in the highland pastures. There were also tanks positioned on high ground at Hauz Shah, from where they engaged in long-distance bombardment of civilians in the summer pastures at the foothills of Qoibaba, around Siabumak and Sulimani. There are also reports of arbitrary detention and summary execution of civilians from the areas through which the Taliban forces advanced towards Nayak. Preliminary reports which require further investigation indicate that 60 persons were brought for execution to central Bamyan; some 50 were rounded up and taken from Shah-e Dan; and around 42 were taken from Shibatoo to Khourghanatoo and from Band-e Amir, Sar-e Qol and Dahani Khanak.

56. Evidence indicates that the abuses committed against civilians outlined in the present report were widespread and systematic. Their nature and modus operandi, together with the overall structure and operation of Taliban military authority, indicate the need for investigation into the role and responsibility of those at the highest levels of command.

The crisis of impunity

57. The most recent massacres in Yakawlang compel urgent attention to be directed to the taking of effective measures to deter and prevent such occurrences. The continued armed conflict, sustained by external military and material support to Afghan parties, is marked by a recurrent pattern of massacres which constitute gross human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law, in some cases amounting to crimes against humanity. Earlier reports had focused on how the warring parties repeatedly committed serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law, including large-scale killing of civilians, summary execution of prisoners, aerial bombardment of civilian targets, indiscriminate bombing, rocket and other artillery attacks on areas populated by civilians, rape and torture, burning of houses, looting and destruction of sources of livelihood and property which, in a number of cases, reflect an intention to impose collective punishment.

58. In the recent Human Rights Watch report on Afghanistan (July 2001), appropriately entitled "Crisis of Impunity", the view is expressed that the international community has failed to hold Afghanistan's warring factions accountable for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, and that international indifference exemplified by the continued supply of military assistance by Governments that have pledged otherwise, has helped to foster a culture of impunity in Afghanistan that makes continued violations all but inevitable. The report provides an informative review of human rights violations committed by the various parties in the territories under their control over the years and also of the external support extended to those parties.

59. Specific recommendations on human rights and the crisis of impunity made in that report and which may readily be endorsed are set out below:

(a) All parties to the conflict should reaffirm their public commitment to abide by international human rights and humanitarian law guaranteeing the protection of civilians and undertake to investigate and prosecute military personnel responsible for violations;

(b) The Security Council, together with the Secretary-General and High Commissioner for Human Rights should press for prompt and thorough investigation of alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including cases of extrajudicial execution of civilians, such as the recent massacre in Yakawlang. Further investigations under the mandate of the Special Rapporteur have yielded substantial evidence, a summary of which is presented in the present report, confirming that a complete and comprehensive investigation is not only feasible, but essential to preserve evidence and provide a basis for enforcing accountability by bringing to justice those responsible for committing serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. Ending the abuses requires ending impunity. The United Nations and Member States should do everything in their power to see that abuses are investigated and perpetrators brought to justice;

(c) The Security Council should make respect for human rights and meaningful protection of civilians a priority in all of its efforts on Afghanistan. Such

measures should not await further progress on a political settlement of the conflict;

(d) A comprehensive arms embargo with appropriate monitoring should be enforced; pending this, States providing military support to the warring parties should stop doing so or stop permitting transhipment of military supplies to them.

IV. Deepening humanitarian crisis, deprivation of economic and social rights and need for increased humanitarian assistance

60. The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan has been marked by further deterioration and has been characterized as increasingly alarming as a result of the accumulated effects of war, human rights abuses and the worst drought in living memory. The effects of drought and fighting in some areas of the country are so intertwined that it is virtually impossible to single out which is the main motivating factor for displacement. The view has been expressed that the displaced are extremely vulnerable Afghans in need of protection and assistance who will not be able to return to their homes unless security as well as access to — at the very least — food and potable water improves.

Internal displacement

61. World Food Programme estimates that over one million people will face an unbridgeable food security gap before the next harvest, that is, in the period from June to September, is being confirmed by the situation on the ground. Famine conditions have been reported in several districts in the western region. Six camps for displaced persons in Herat now hold over 150,000 persons, with approximately 120,000 in Maslakh, the largest camp. In the north, thousands of internally displaced people are in camps in the province of Kunduz, where displacement owing to conflict has reached alarming proportions. Entire communities have left areas affected by war and settled in Kunduz and Baghlan. Thousands of families left their homes in Badakhshan and Takhar and are faced with problems of finding food and water. Internally displaced persons camps lack sanitation and an overwhelming stench of rubbish and human excrement fills the air and makes the sites potential breeding grounds for disease. There have been reports of cholera outbreaks in a district in Balkh. Afghans from the worst drought-affected northern provinces of Jowzjan, Sar-e Pol and Faryab, have moved to Balkh, with the province now embracing the largest number of displaced people in the northern region, where more than 200,000 people have been displaced. People who left drought-hit areas to settle in makeshift camps across Balkh face the same problem of lack of food and water from which they were seeking to escape. Few internally displaced persons have managed to find work and most are reduced to begging in the local markets. Cases of severe malnutrition have been reported.

62. In the southern provinces, some 90 per cent of the farmers who are already displaced have been forced to move again as a result of continuing scarcity of water. Such scarcity means that some 23,000 displaced families, mainly Kuchi nomadic shepherds, have been unable to return to traditional grazing lands.

63. Population movements among Afghans are at crisis levels. Current estimates are that over 800,000 Afghans have in recent times become internally displaced persons. A further 350,000 have crossed into neighbouring countries. Increased humanitarian assistance is needed in support of the United Nations programme to strengthen protection and assistance in all areas of Afghanistan, with emphasis on assistance for people in situ, in order to avoid further involuntary displacement.

64. Between the war and the ongoing drought, the Afghan economy is at a low ebb. The economy has collapsed and there has been a decline of up to 60 per cent in the purchasing power of casual wage labour in urban centres. The depreciation of the local currency continues. The ban on opium poppy cultivation, a measure taken by the Taliban authorities and successfully enforced, has meant that those previously engaged in this activity are faced with destitution, unless alternative employment opportunities are created for them. It is ironic that, while humanitarian needs are becoming more acute and urgent, the authorities in control of different areas do little to help the people in those areas to improve their survival capability and meet their subsistence needs. Scarce resources are misdirected to wage war to maintain military forces that engage in operations which violate the human rights of innocent people striving for survival.

Refugees

65. The flow of new refugees in the order of around 150,000 to Pakistan and 200,000 to the Islamic Republic of Iran had encountered resistance in both countries to accepting this additional burden, given the fact that each of them had existing refugee populations of around 2 million, many of whom had been there for over two decades. Refugees in both these host countries manifesting symptoms of fatigue were facing actions which led to further deprivation of their rights. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, thousands of Afghans were forced out of work, owing to a new fine imposed on Iranians who employed them. Under the new law introduced in June 2001, the employer must pay the Government the equivalent of 25 dollars for each Afghan worker. The police were also directed to take action against employers found hiring "illegal residents" and to start rounding up and deporting "illegal foreign migrants". In Pakistan, some 120,000 refugees who were resident in the Nasir Bagh refugee camp in Peshawar were facing a possible threat of eviction. Both the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan have been stepping up efforts to impede the inflow of refugees and indeed to exert pressure in various forms for their return. It is noteworthy that recent Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) statistics showed that, in the first five months of 2001, the largest group of people applying for asylum were Afghans, reflected in nearly 20,000 applications in 27 European countries.

66. On 2 August 2001, Pakistan and UNHCR concluded an important screening agreement which would allow thousands of Afghans to be given temporary protection by Pakistan. The 20-day process of pre-screening was to be carried out in the Nasir Bagh camp in Peshawar and in the nearby makeshift Jalozai refugee camp. Some 30 screening teams were to interview heads of households and register them by gathering basic information. With a total of 138,000 refugees residing in the two camps, teams consisting of two persons, one representing the Government of Pakistan and the other, UNHCR, were to conduct interviews assisted by an interpreter. It was intended that the number of teams would be increased to 55 by the end of August. UNHCR has indicated that each family opting to go home will be given US$ 100 in cash and 150 kilograms of wheat flour to help with resettlement.

67. The annual report of the United Nations Resident Coordinator for 2000, presented in May 2001 records that "the war continues to be the most significant factor undermining the enjoyment of rights in Afghanistan. Each day, the right to life is an issue for Afghans in frontline communities subjected to indiscriminate bombing and indiscriminate use of landmines. There are also regular reports of the deliberate destruction of homes and assets, including water systems, food and animals essential for survival. Summary executions and arbitrary detention are a known feature of the Afghan conflict; such violations have not abated in recent times". The report further notes that "away from the frontlines, Afghans suffer such an incredible human rights deficit, including in terms of such fundamentals as the right to food, shelter and health, that the right to life is continually under threat for a significant portion of the vulnerable population. The drought, crippling poverty and the restrictions imposed by the Taliban authorities on the right of women to work outside the home give cause for additional concern".

68. That report further notes the effect on women of the *firman* (decree of law) issued in the summer of 2000, which restricts the employment of Afghan females in United Nations and non-governmental organization programmes, with the exception of the health sector, which affects several thousand Afghan women. The report indicates that it constitutes a gross violation of the right of Afghan women to work and to an adequate standard of living, as well as a setback in the process of principled engagement between the United Nations and the Taliban authorities. The decree on the employment of Afghan women will considerably reduce the capacity of the assistance community to reach female target groups in Afghanistan.

69. The Principled Common Programme adopted by the assistance community following a principled approach consistent with the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan aimed to address the priority needs required to (a) alleviate human suffering; (b) protect and advance human rights; (c) provide minimum basic social services; (d) build sustainable livelihoods by empowering Afghans; and (e) support the return of refugees.

70. Funding support continues to fall short of the targets, despite commitment from donors to the contrary. In view of the changing and worsening crisis, the assistance community has revised the amount

requested in the 2001 appeal from $229 million to $283 million. The response from donors to date (mid-August 2001) is a little over 40 per cent, or $114 million. The report notes that funding support to enhance the human rights dimension of assistance work has strengthened consultative mechanisms that facilitate dialogue and collaboration on priority human rights concerns within the assistance arena. A number of human rights training and dissemination initiatives are under way and specific measures have been taken to generate greater coherence for the overall approach to human rights in Afghanistan. The strengthening of indigenous capacities in human rights is seen as an important contribution to the achievement of a more just and peaceful future in Afghanistan.

Impact of decrees and policies of the Taliban authorities

71. There continues to be a series of edicts, policy directives and actions of the Taliban authorities which have negative implications for human rights. Certain actions taken by the religious police, such as raids on hospitals reflect a more harsh and hardened approach being adopted by them in their operations. A hospital recently opened in Kabul by an Italian non-governmental organization closed on 18 May after a raid in which several staff members were beaten by the religious police, following an allegation that male and female staff were eating together in the canteen, which was denied by the hospital authorities. In June, there was a report of the religious police raiding the Central Hospital in Herat on the allegation that staff members were not conforming to requirements relating to haircuts. The Taliban Governor, on receiving a complaint about this raid, had censured the persons involved. The United Nations Coordinator reported increased interference by Taliban officials in the work of United Nations personnel, indicating that some United Nations staff had been arrested and even physically abused by the Taliban. There have also been reports of increased hostility towards non-governmental organizations and humanitarian agencies, manifested in efforts by the religious police to extend behavioural and dress codes imposed on the population to humanitarian agencies. The Information Ministry announcement indicated that foreigners, including aid workers, must sign a contract agreeing to abide by Taliban rules before they can be issued a work visa, which would substantially subject them to Islamic laws applying to Afghans and expose them to similar corporal and capital punishment. The action to prevent employment of women in the conduct of a survey of beneficiaries in connection with the bakeries run by the World Food Programme had threatened to close down 130 bakeries that feed 280,000 people. The situation was resolved by the authorities agreeing to allow women hired by the Taliban Health Ministry to be engaged for conducting the survey.

72. The arrest in August 2001 of employees of the non-governmental organization Shelter Now International, on the allegation that its personnel were involved in proselytizing Muslims, has caused widespread concern regarding the personal safety of aid workers, and may have a serious effect on humanitarian assistance so desperately needed within Afghanistan. The report of the Secretary-General (A/55/1028-S/2001/789), dated 17 August 2001, has drawn attention to this problem in paragraph 44, as follows:

> "Arrests of national humanitarian staff by Taliban forces have increased. United Nations staff and aid project managers have frequently been subjected to coercion and abusive behaviour by the Taliban authorities. As a consequence of those restrictive measures and actions, aid organizations have found it increasingly difficult to reach populations in need, in particular women. It is imperative that the Taliban cease the harassment of humanitarian workers and make a firm commitment to the humanitarian operational requirements".

In the report (para. 45), it is also observed that

> "In the sphere of human rights, there has been no improvement in the policies, practices and circumstances that undermine the ability of Afghans to enjoy their most fundamental rights. As noted in previous reports, the combination of war, weak and unrepresentative governance mechanisms and widespread and deep-rooted poverty coupled with the drought and profound underdevelopment is a deadly mixture for a growing number of Afghans. More and more Afghans are on the move as they seek safety and survival elsewhere, including in neighbouring countries and beyond".

V. Concluding observations

73. There has been a heightening of interest in developments in Afghanistan as the humanitarian crisis continues to deepen. The new flows of refugees into Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran and the massive internal displacement not only call for increased protection and assistance but underscore the need for adopting a comprehensive approach to arrive at a settlement which would address the root causes.

74. In view of the recurrent massacres exemplified by those in Yakawlang referred to above, specific measures need to be considered to address the climate of impunity which has allowed massacres and other human rights violations to occur repeatedly, despite the consistent directives of the Security Council and appeals of the international community to the warring parties to refrain from committing such gross violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law.

75. Putting an end to the conflict is imperative in order to pave the way for resolving the crisis. Clearly, a comprehensive approach which addresses the Afghan crisis as a whole in its political, military, humanitarian and human rights dimensions is called for. This approach would recognize that, in the prevailing situation, the Afghan people are being denied the exercise of their right to determine their own future. Continuing external foreign interference lies at the root of the prolongation of the conflict. It must therefore be a key element of a durable settlement that all segments of the Afghan people should be able to exercise their right to freely decide their form of government through an internationally acceptable mechanism. It is only through a process which provides such a mechanism that the crisis of legitimacy which has affected prevailing dispensations can be resolved.

76. The emergence of a truly representative, broad-based, multi-ethnic government through a process which will enable the Afghan people to exercise freely their choice could bring about enduring peace. It would, of course, be expected of the government which would emerge in Afghanistan through this process that it would solemnly undertake to respect its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights instruments to which Afghanistan is a party. The incentive that could encourage all segments of the Afghan population to cooperate with the international community would be the prospect of significant international support for a national plan for rehabilitation and reconstruction which would enable the millions of refugees and the internally displaced persons to return to their homes and allow all Afghans to rebuild their lives in a unified Afghanistan where their security from external interference and non-intervention would be internationally guaranteed.

United Nations A/56/410-S/2001/914

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
27 September 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 166
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 27 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith China's position paper on the fight against international terrorism (see annex). I should be most grateful if you would kindly circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Yingfan
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of China
to the United Nations

01-55405 (E) 270901

Annex

[Original: Chinese and English]

China's position paper on the fight against international terrorism

I. Terrorism, which endangers innocent lives, causes losses of social wealth and jeopardizes the security of States, constitutes a serious challenge to human civilization and a serious threat to international peace and security.

II. The Chinese Government opposes and condemns all forms of terrorism and is against using terrorism as a means of achieving political objectives.

III. The fight against terrorism calls for protracted and concerted efforts of the international community. It is imperative to strengthen international cooperation at all levels and establish an international anti-terrorist mechanism under the auspices of the United Nations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, relevant Security Council resolutions, all conventions against international terrorism and documents adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in this regard.

IV. China supports all efforts aimed at strengthening anti-terrorism conventions within the framework of the United Nations, including the early completion of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. China encourages all States to become parties to the existing international anti-terrorism conventions as soon as possible and to effectively implement such conventions.

V. In their cooperation to fight against international terrorism, all States should faithfully fulfil their responsibilities and obligations, including:

- condemning all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as criminal and unjustifiable;
- taking necessary measures, in accordance with their national laws and international obligations, to cut off any financial, material and military support to terrorists;
- desisting from engaging in activities of organizing, abetting, assisting, financing or participating in terrorist acts in the territories of other countries, or acquiescing in or encouraging activities within their own borders that facilitate acts of terrorism in other countries, or sheltering, harbouring or conniving at international terrorists, or supporting or tolerating, for whatever reason or in whatever form and by whatever means, perpetrators of terrorist acts;
- taking appropriate measures to ensure that their territories are not used as terrorist training camps or to prepare or organize acts of terrorist activities against other countries or their nationals;
- arresting, prosecuting and extraditing perpetrators of terrorist acts in conformity with their domestic laws and provisions of relevant international treaties;
- making efforts to conduct international cooperation through bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and arrangements, particularly by promoting all forms of information exchange helpful to the fight against terrorism, providing

legal assistance in terms of investigation, evidence collection, arrest and prosecution procedures involving acts of terrorism, and extraditing or handing over by other means criminals to relevant authorities of countries concerned, in accordance with domestic laws as well as obligations provided for in international treaties. Developed countries should provide to other Member States upon request necessary anti-terrorist technologies, financial assistance and training and help the latter to strengthen their anti-terrorist capacity-building.

VI. The United Nations and its Security Council should play a leading role in the fight against terrorism. It is recommended that the Security Council should establish an anti-terrorism mechanism to explore and formulate and conduct concrete programmes for the fight against terrorism.

VII. It is recommended that the United Nations Secretariat strengthen its capacity for information collection and analysis in the field of anti-terrorism and report to the Security Council periodically.

VIII. The fight against terrorism should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other established norms of international law. There should be a comprehensive approach, involving political, diplomatic, economic and other means, to address both the problem of terrorism and its underlying causes, in an effort to eliminate the root causes of terrorism.

United Nations A/56/411

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 September 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 90
Questions relating to information

Questions relating to information

Report of the Secretary-General*

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–2	2
II.	Overview	3–6	2
III.	United Nations web site	7–10	3
IV.	General public information activities	11–24	4
	A. Services to the media	11–19	4
	B. Outreach to non-governmental organizations and educational institutions	20–21	5
	C. Services to the public	22–24	6
V.	Thematic information programmes	25–39	6
VI.	United Nations information centres	40–41	8
VII.	Library and cartographic services	42–47	9
VIII.	Publishing activities	48–52	9
IX.	Observations	53–57	10
Annex			
	Major activities of the Department of Public Information carried out in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/136 B		12

* The footnote requested by General Assembly resolution 54/248 was not included in the submission.

01-55468 (E) 231001

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 55/136 B of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-third session, in 2001, and to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the resolution. The present report is prepared in response to the resolution and updates the information already provided.

2. Eight reports were prepared for consideration by the Committee on Information at its twenty-third session, held from 30 April to 11 May 2001 (A/AC.198/2001/2-9). The Interim Head of the Department of Public Information offered additional substantive information in his opening statement to the Committee. The Committee resumed its twenty-third session from 5 to 7 September to consider the final report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the pilot project on the development of an international radio broadcasting capacity for the United Nations (A/AC.198/2001/10). The deliberations of the Committee are reflected in its report to the General Assembly.[1]

II. Overview

3. The Department of Public Information has made every effort to strengthen the communication function within the United Nations, including in offices in the field, so as to create an informed understanding of the Organization's work and to build broad-based global support for it. With the strong encouragement of the Secretary-General, it has reoriented its activities to ensure that communication is placed at the heart of the strategic management of the Organization. As a result of the wide public interest in the Organization generated by the Millennium Summit, the Department is directing the United Nations message to the local level. A new programme, entitled "United Nations Works", has been designed by the Department to showcase success stories and to demonstrate the impact of the Organization's activities on people around the world. Essential to local outreach are the activities and programmes of the United Nations information centres and the Department's strengthened partnerships with key redisseminators, especially the media and non-governmental organizations.

4. Through the use of the latest technologies, the Department is retooling its capabilities so as to widen the Organization's outreach in a fast-moving and competitive communications environment. As the Secretary-General pointed out in his report entitled "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century", every year the vast electronic treasure house of information available on the United Nations web site becomes accessible at no cost to millions more people (A/54/2000, para. 344). The Department of Public Information is continuously working to enhance the web site. Given that the total number of visitors in 2001 is expected to exceed 1 billion, up from 488,369,528 in 2000 and only 11,547,325 in 1996, those efforts are proving highly successful. In the past year, the Department has initiated two major services to deliver news directly to the media and other audiences around the globe. The pilot project for live United Nations radio broadcasting, begun during last year's Millennium Summit, now brings the voices of the United Nations to tens of millions of radio listeners in virtually every country. On any given day, audiences around the world can hear the Secretary-General speaking at Headquarters, the Force Commander of a peacekeeping mission addressing the media or a rural family discussing how a United Nations sanitation programme has transformed the life of its village. Through the second initiative, the electronic mail-based United Nations News Service, to be launched in October 2001, the Department will be able to instantaneously provide specially targeted information to influential journalists in every region. Both initiatives are also important elements in the overall drive by the Department to bridge the gap in the ability of the media in industrialized and developing countries to immediately access important news developments from the United Nations system.

5. The Department is actively responding to the call by the General Assembly to maintain and improve its activities in areas in which developing countries have special needs. This is being done, for example, through the special outreach of the United Nations information centres in the field, through training programmes at Headquarters for media practitioners from developing countries and through the Department's focus on designing special communication strategies for the current cycle of conferences and special sessions of the

General Assembly on economic and social issues. Furthermore, the Department's widespread and continued use of traditional means of dissemination, including radio and print, takes into consideration the needs of its audiences on the other side of the digital divide.

6. The Joint United Nations Information Committee continues to be an important mechanism for the coordination of public information activities within the United Nations system. At its 2001 session, the Committee took concrete steps to revitalize its structures and its work programme by dropping routine, annually recurring agenda items in favour of a focus on shared challenges in the area of communications and policy issues of common concern.

III. United Nations web site

7. The United Nations web site provides the latest daily information on the activities of the Organization and receives, on average, close to 3.5 million visits daily from people in more than 156 countries. Through its Information Technology Section, the Department has continued to strengthen the coordination and management of the site and to offer guidance on a regular basis to many other content-providing areas, both inside and outside the Secretariat, in support of their Internet activities. In early 2002, all parliamentary documents in the six official languages will be available through the new Official Document System on the United Nations web site, thereby greatly increasing the amount of material available on the non-English language sites. Most new material is now being added to the web site in all official languages, and it is important to note that the non-English language sites are developing at a faster rate than the English site. Usage of those sites has also increased considerably. To help further coordinate the Organization's Internet publishing, the United Nations Publications Board, which is chaired by the Head of the Department, recently issued new policy guidelines (ST/AI/2001/5). They provide, among other things, for setting up an interdepartmental working group on Internet matters, which is to be chaired by the Chief of the Department's Information Technology Section.

8. One of the major achievements during the past year was the successful development of the in-house capability for live webcasting. As a result, the Department, with the cooperation of the Information Technology Services Division of the Department of Management, provided live webcasts of the special sessions of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and on HIV/AIDS. Special arrangements were also made for a live webcast of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. Although the existing equipment will need to be upgraded and staff skills enhanced to continue webcasting on an ongoing basis, the Department is already webcasting on a trial basis the daily noon briefings by the Spokesman for the Secretary-General.

9. In 2001, the United Nations CyberSchoolBus, the site for young people and teachers, implemented a uniform database-driven navigational system and launched a redesign of the site to help ensure its functionality and popularity with teachers and students worldwide. Considerable content has been translated and reprogrammed into French and Russian, with the Arabic-, Chinese- and Spanish-language versions under preparation. The CyberSchoolBus has also developed a number of new high-quality materials.

10. As part of its continuing efforts to help bridge the digital divide, over the past year the Department has organized three training seminars on the use of the Internet as a tool for development: two in Beirut, in cooperation with the International Organization of la Francophonie, and one in New York. The Beirut seminars were conducted in Arabic and French. The first, held in October 2000, brought together 30 specialists in institutional communication from the region. The second, held in April 2001, focused on the use of the Internet by the media, with the participation of media organizations based in Beirut. The New York seminar, held in March 2001 with 30 participants from 19 permanent missions of Spanish-speaking Member States, aimed to promote the availability of information in Spanish. As a result, 15 permanent missions have established their own web sites in Spanish, all linked to the United Nations site.

IV. General public information activities

A. Services to the media

11. In order to project a more open and transparent institution, the Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General continued to inform the accredited press, delegations and the public at large on the broad scope of United Nations activities, as well as the day-to-day movements of the Secretary-General. Using Internet technology to widen coverage of the Secretary-General, the Office added a new section to its web page containing the Secretary-General's latest statements. Included in the upgraded site is a quote of the day. Other information is updated daily, including the Secretary-General's "off-the-cuff" statements to the press, his daily appointments and travel records, schedules of press conferences, highlights of the daily press briefings and fact sheets of interest to the media.

12. Guided by General Assembly resolution 54/82 B of 6 December 1999, in which the Assembly established a pilot project for the development of an international radio broadcasting capacity for the United Nations, the Department is now producing 15-minute packages of news, interviews, in-depth backgrounders, features and peacekeeping mission updates, along with coverage of a range of social, human rights, economic, humanitarian and other activities of the entire United Nations system. The programmes, prepared five days a week (including holidays) in the six official languages of the Organization, are aired live to listeners around the world. They are also posted on the United Nations web site and sent to radio stations that are technologically equipped to handle the electronic file transfer protocol on the Internet. The programme's partner stations include international broadcasters such as China Radio International, Channel Africa, the Voice of Russia, Afrique No. 1, Radio Habana Cuba, la Voz de los Andes and CANA Radio. On the national level, it reaches Radio Cairo, Radio Beirut, Radio Abu Dhabi, China National Radio, Voice of Nigeria, Radio Tunisia, Radio Côte d'Ivoire, Radio Nacional de Venezuela, Radio Educación de México and Radio Sandino in Nicaragua, among others. Merlin Communications Network and the Canal de la Francophonie broadcast United Nations programming through satellite. Through the use of a combination of shortwave transmission, satellite distribution, digital and analog telephone lines and the Internet, the profile of the United Nations has been raised significantly. Improving distribution methods in order to provide reliable audio of the highest quality is a priority as live radio moves into its second year. The Department also continues to distribute telephone feeds in the six official languages, as well as in Kiswahili and Portuguese, and to send taped programmes in 15 languages to stations that do not have the technical capacity to receive the live broadcasts. The Department, assisted by its network of information centres, continues to build and expand the network of rebroadcasting partners. The determined support of Member States and their national broadcasting networks is crucial to the continued success of live radio. At the same time, the radio web pages have been redesigned, and a Portuguese page was added in May.

13. The Department continued to enhance the electronic delivery of news on all aspects of the activities of the United Nations system in real time to audiences worldwide, including to the media, non-governmental organizations and their news outlets, and the public at large. The News Centre on the United Nations web site is the central portal for accessing news and related source materials and links, and special emphasis has been placed on improving its usability, functionality and visual attractiveness. With the development of a fully database-driven application, the redesigned News Centre site offers a vastly improved search function, allowing the user to access information by thematic and geographical categories and, at the same time, to quickly retrieve related materials. The Department is working to develop the ability of United Nations offices around the world to post news directly onto the central News Centre, thereby making it a 24-hour operation. The first offices to do so will be those in Geneva and Pristina.

14. To further deepen direct working relationships with journalists worldwide, an enhanced, automated version of the electronic mail service, developed in conjunction with the United Nations News Centre, is currently in the pilot phase, allowing subscribers to receive highly customized daily news digests as well as alerts about upcoming major events. During the year, the Department, working in cooperation with the United Nations information centres, has used its electronic mailing list of senior journalists to disseminate statements of the Secretary-General and senior officials in advance. This effort to project the

United Nations perspective on important international issues has been reinforced by the coordinated worldwide placement of op-ed and other opinion pieces by the Secretary-General and senior officials.

15. As part of its media outreach, the Department held the fourth programme in its successful series of briefings for senior journalists. With the financial support of the Government of Japan and the assistance of United Nations information centres and services, 14 Asian editors and broadcasters were brought to New York in May 2001. As was the case with previous briefing programmes organized for African journalists and United States editorial writers, representatives of influential media were given the opportunity to talk with senior United Nations officials. Planning is under way for similar programmes for journalists from the Middle East and from Latin America and the Caribbean, pending the identification of funding.

16. United Nations Television has continued to produce and distribute programmes covering events at Headquarters. Its pictures are also used in all live webcasts from Headquarters. To facilitate that effort, labour-saving robotic television cameras were introduced this spring. The Department has continued to produce the weekly television news programme "UN in Action", which is distributed in five languages to broadcasters in more than 100 countries. It can now also be accessed by international audiences through streaming video on the United Nations web site. The programme "World Chronicle" was also produced and shown on cable television stations in some 35 countries, and the annual 15-minute round-up of world affairs, "Year in Review", reached wide audiences through satellite television and the Internet.

17. This year the Department produced three special documentaries. "Armed to the Teeth" is a one-hour programme, prepared in cooperation with the Department of Disarmament Affairs, on the worldwide proliferation of small arms, and "Legacies of War" is a 45-minute programme on the problems of people emerging from conflict. Both won awards at international film festivals and were distributed widely to international broadcasters. In connection with the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, a 28-minute documentary on AIDS in South Africa, entitled "Together We Can", was co-produced with Synergy Films.

18. In November 2000 the Department organized the fifth United Nations World Television Forum, bringing together some 1,000 industry leaders and experts from around the world to examine how the television industry could contribute to bridging the digital divide. The next Forum will be held in 2002 to allow sufficient time for the Department to review with its partners the format and focus of the Forum so as to make it an even more important world media event.

19. The Department's 2001 training programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries was held at Headquarters from 10 September to 19 October. Owing to budgetary constraints, this year's programme included only 12 participants, a smaller number than usual. To date, more than 300 journalists from almost 140 countries have participated.

B. Outreach to non-governmental organizations and educational institutions

20. The Department undertook special initiatives to improve its working relationships with the 1,600 associated non-governmental organizations and to review the list of those accredited. It has focused on a new system to monitor compliance with the criteria for association and on increased outreach to non-governmental organizations beyond United Nations Headquarters. There has been unprecedented interest in association, and since October 2000 32 additional organizations have been associated. In conjunction with United Nations information centres and services and non-governmental organizations in Africa, Europe and the Americas, the Department has continued to provide interactive videoconferencing for some of its weekly briefings for non-governmental organizations, which are often co-sponsored by United Nations system partners and attract a steady audience of 150 to 200 people at Headquarters.

21. The Department's fifty-fourth annual conference for non-governmental organizations was expected to be held from 10 to 12 September 2001 on the theme "Non-governmental organizations today: diversity of the volunteer experience". Some 2,000 representatives of 600 organizations from 90 countries participated on opening day. The President of Mexico made a statement to the gathering on videotape, which was also addressed by the Secretary-General and the

President of the General Assembly. However, as a result of the events of 11 September, the Conference was interrupted and a closing meeting was rescheduled on 13 September 2001.

C. Services to the public

22. The Department of Public Information has continued to focus on improving the experience of visitors to United Nations Headquarters. In October 2000 an updated and expanded disarmament exhibit was introduced on the tour route. More recently, new monitors featuring visual presentations on the Security Council and on the economic and social issues addressed by the United Nations system were installed along the tour route in the Conference Building. Using new technologies to attract more visitors, last May the Department launched a web site on the guided tour operation. Information on visiting Headquarters is fully available in all six official languages, and in abbreviated form in German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and Swedish.

23. Many groups visiting Headquarters participate in briefing programmes that the Department organizes for university students and non-governmental organizations. It also continues to facilitate the annual opening and closing sessions of the National High School and College Model United Nations Conferences of the United States, with each bringing more than 2,000 students to Headquarters. In addition, many Secretariat staff participated in outside speaking engagements throughout North America.

24. The prolonged closing of the Secretariat Building to visitors as a result of the events of 11 September had a negative effect on the Department's ability to provide services to the public during that period.

V. Thematic information programmes

25. The Department of Public Information must give a public face to the work of all Secretariat departments and organizational units. To do so, it uses its communication expertise to formulate and disseminate specific messages around the world and to systematically incorporate the communication goals of other departments into advocacy campaigns. Print, radio and television products are part of its communication strategy, and sometimes have the benefit of pro bono expertise provided by global public relations firms. Close ties are also forged with journalists covering specialized areas, as well as with civil society groups. Communication strategies have been implemented by the Department to promote the global conferences and special sessions of the General Assembly on development issues, held throughout the past year.

26. The state of the world's 49 poorest countries and a plan for their social and economic progress were publicized by the Department in connection with the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels in May 2001. A press kit was produced and 100 key "influencers" were contacted to help brief the media on technical issues, leading to editorial board meetings with key publications, a related "United Nations Works" campaign and widespread coverage in print and broadcast media in both the North and the South. For the special session of the General Assembly on human settlements, held in June, the Department developed and mounted a global information programme on "the Urban Millennium", in close cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

27. The twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly, on HIV/AIDS, was a major focus of the Department's work throughout the past year. In coordination with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and its co-sponsor agencies, it has helped to raise awareness of the role of the United Nations in the fight against HIV/AIDS and to galvanize political commitment and resources. A detailed joint communication strategy was developed by the Department and UNAIDS, with input from all UNAIDS co-sponsors, and was later expanded to include the Secretary-General's call to action on HIV/AIDS. The massive media interest contributed significantly to raising the international profile of the AIDS issue and ensuring the success of the special session. The lighting of the Headquarters Building with the red AIDS ribbon from 23 to 25 June to provide a visual image for the event was covered widely, as was the unfolding of the AIDS memorial quilt.

28. In the field of human rights, the Department focused its efforts on the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. In close cooperation with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for

Human Rights, it developed a communication strategy that was implemented through print products, special events, radio and television programming, art contests, exhibits, addresses to non-governmental organizations and a multimedia web site. The Department provided coverage and communications support for the Conference, and also accredited 1,140 media representatives.

29. In its advocacy activities for the advancement of women, the Department continued its ongoing multimedia communication strategy to support the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[2] as well as the political declaration and further actions and initiatives adopted by the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, held in June 2000 (resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex). The Department is producing a publication in the six official languages containing those important documents.

30. In close cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department formulated a comprehensive information strategy to promote United Nations efforts to improve the situation of youth. A major focus was the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations system, held at Dakar in August. In cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund, the Department launched an international media campaign to publicize the special session of the General Assembly on children, scheduled for September 2001, but later postponed.

31. In preparation for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, to be held in Madrid next April, the Department has launched an international public service announcement campaign for television, radio and print media. The production of promotional materials has also been initiated.

32. The Department has begun to promote the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Monterrey, Mexico, next March. Publicity was given in the past year to the report of the Secretary-General on financing for development, issued early in 2001 (A/AC.257/12), and the report of the High-level Panel on Financing for Development, chaired by former President of Mexico, Ernesto Zedillo, issued in June (A/55/1000).

33. The Department has been working closely with the secretariat of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to build worldwide interest for this event, scheduled for September 2002.

34. In the area of peace and security, the Department has continued to publicize through a variety of media the work of United Nations peacekeeping, peacemaking and peace-building missions, as well as disarmament activities. It maintains web pages on current United Nations peace operations, and has continued to provide operational support to the public information components of peacekeeping and other field missions. In May 2001, representatives of the Department of Public Information and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations visited the United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in connection with planning for the establishment of United Nations radio stations. The Department is now assisting the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in strengthening the public information component of the Mission.

35. In the context of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809) and subsequent reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Panel's recommendations, the Department has continued its close cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs to improve the public information capacity of peacekeeping and other field missions. In addition to the ongoing work, consultations are under way with other relevant Secretariat offices on the implementation of specific projects, such as standard operating procedures, start-up kits, new information technologies, rapid deployment and a conceptual design for an integrated process for establishing a new field information operation.

36. On disarmament-related issues, the Department mounted a public information campaign to promote the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in July 2001, encouraging widespread interest by the media and civil society organizations. On the first day of the Conference, designated as Small Arms Destruction Day, the Department helped to organize a special event at Headquarters, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands.

37. In accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Department continued to sensitize public opinion on the question of Palestine

through its special information programme. On 18 and 19 June it held an international media encounter on the question of Palestine in Paris, at which international media representatives and experts discussed the status of the peace process and ways and means to break the deadlock. Ninth in a series launched in 1991, the encounter attracted wide international media coverage. The Department has scheduled a training programme at Headquarters for 10 Palestinian journalists and broadcasters, to be held in the autumn of 2001.

38. In the area of decolonization, the Department has continued to publicize the work of the Organization. It currently maintains a web page on decolonization on the United Nations web site. A new brochure highlighting the launch of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2001-2010) is being issued.

39. As part of its ongoing campaign to promote the observance of the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, the Department will produce a press kit highlighting the plenary meetings of the General Assembly on the Year, to be held on 3 and 4 December 2001. This will coincide with the issuance of a publication, prepared by a group of eminent persons appointed by the Secretary-General and led by his Personal Representative for the Year, about the dialogue among civilizations as a methodology facilitating a new paradigm for international relations. The Department, in association with the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, has already produced seven public service announcements illustrating the work of individuals who have crossed the divide of difference to bring people together. They have been distributed to television networks worldwide, and are also available on the web page on the Year posted on the United Nations web site.

VI. United Nations information centres

40. During the past year, the network of United Nations information centres and services and United Nations offices continued to serve as the local voice of the Organization around the world. They disseminated information on the work and priority themes of the Organization to the general public, as well as to key partners, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations, representatives of the media, academics and students. A wide variety of public outreach activities were organized, such as seminars, round tables, media briefings, press conferences, film screenings, exhibits, workshops and conferences, aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the United Nations among local communities. Information centres carried out an impressive number of activities in support of the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS. Altogether, 58 centres organized 170 special activities. Their efforts in reaching out not only to ministries, Government officials, the media, non-governmental organizations and AIDS-related civil society associations, but also to women, students and vulnerable groups, generated significant interest in the session in their respective areas. The centres were also resourceful in highlighting other significant United Nations events over the past year, such as the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and the World Conference against Racism. For the latter, for example, a German press kit was produced by the United Nations information centres in Bonn and Vienna.

41. The Department has continued to strengthen the technological capacity of its information centres by providing equipment and training. During the biennium 2000-2001, it has approved a record number of training requests for the centres' staff and conducted a major upgrade of computer equipment. The provision of training in both information technologies and professional skills, complemented by scanners, digital cameras, compact disk writers and desktop publishing facilities, has allowed the centres to locally produce attractive and timely information materials. To facilitate local production, the Department is also providing the centres with the electronic versions of design layouts. Increasingly, the information centres have shared their technological know-how with key partners, for example by providing researchers with access to the Organization's databases or by training local media professionals in the retrieval of United Nations information from the Internet. In their commitment to harnessing the outreach capabilities of the Internet, a growing number of centres have developed their own web sites providing news and other information materials on United Nations themes and events, including local-language versions of major reports. At present, 40 centres maintain web sites, the most recent additions being those in Algiers, Ankara, Bogota, Cairo, Dhaka, La Paz, Ouagadougou, Rio de Janeiro, Tehran and Warsaw.

VII. Library and cartographic services

42. Through ongoing programmes and new initiatives, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library continues to reinforce its commitment to bridging the digital divide by placing major emphasis on web-related activities, the digitization of United Nations documents, inter-agency resource-sharing, the provision of extensive training programmes, the provision of multilingual access to written information and forging strategic partnerships throughout the United Nations system. UNBISnet (http://unbisnet.un.org), which comprises the Library's major databases, including its public catalogue, has received more than 700,000 hits since it was opened to the public, free of charge, in September 2000.

43. In keeping with the Organization's renewed emphasis on multilingualism, the Library launched the Arabic, Chinese and Russian versions of its own web page on 6 July 2001. The page entitled "United Nations documentation: research guide" (http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide) is being translated into all official languages; the Arabic and French versions have already been posted. The Library's thesaurus files have been completed in all official languages and are undergoing final editing. Through the issuance of the UNBIS Thesaurus in Arabic, Chinese and Russian, with projected availability on the Web in 2001, multilingual subject access to the Official Document System (ODS) and other United Nations documentation databases will have been achieved.

44. Pursuant to resolution 52/214 C, of 22 December 1997, the Library, in cooperation with the Information Technology Services Division of the Department of Management, continues the retrospective posting of pre-1993 parliamentary documentation to ODS. Security Council documents are available in English from 1985 onwards. The documentation of the General Assembly is available in English from the forty-first session, and in Arabic, French and Spanish from the forty-sixth session.

45. Paramount among inter-agency cooperative efforts is the United Nations System Electronic Information Acquisition Consortium, which centralizes the purchasing of online information products and services for more than 50 entities throughout the United Nations system. Initiated by the Library in 1998, the Consortium is now in its fourth subscription cycle and continues to effect significant cost savings. Because of these cooperative purchase agreements, the Library can provide the permanent missions and United Nations offices worldwide with remote access to previously unaffordable electronic databases and services.

46. As at 30 June 2001, there were 394 United Nations depository libraries: 56 in Africa; 101 in Asia and the Pacific; 19 in Western Asia; 82 in Western Europe; 30 in Eastern Europe; 50 in Latin America and the Caribbean; and 56 in North America. Fourteen new libraries joined the system during the period from July 2000 to June 2001. In addition to training provided at Headquarters for visiting librarians, three regional workshops were held in 2000 (in Brussels, Islamabad and Moscow), and two in 2001 (in Mexico City and Rabat). Since January 2001, 35 depository libraries have converted their hard-copy entitlements of official records and documents into ODS access.

47. The Department continues to expand its cartographic and geographic services. Revised peacekeeping and general maps have been prepared, and new ones have been developed and posted on the cartographic web site in digital form for free access by Member States and the Secretariat. The Chief of the Cartographic Section continues to chair the Inter-agency United Nations Geographic Information Working Group, the objective of which is to coordinate the development and maintenance of a common United Nations geographic database. The Department began to develop this database in August 2001, in cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In accordance with the peace agreement between the Governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia signed on 12 December 2000 (A/55/686-S/2000/1183), the Chief of the Cartographic Section was appointed Secretary of the Boundary Commission.

VIII. Publishing activities

48. The Department makes every effort to ensure that its recurrent and other publications contain comprehensive and objective information about the major issues before the Organization. New technologies have enhanced the production process and made electronic versions possible. Through the Africa Recovery information programme, the Department provides focused outreach on economic developments

in Africa to the worldwide media, government officials and policy makers, as well as to scholars and other members of civil society. *Africa Recovery* magazine presents in-depth assessments of programmes, policies and supporting action taken by the United Nations, donors, African Governments and the peoples of Africa in order to give visibility to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa. The Department continues to promote the global campaign for development in Africa, along with its partners in the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries. It cooperated with UNAIDS and ECA to disseminate information on HIV/AIDS in Africa.

49. The fifty-second volume of the *Yearbook of the United Nations*, covering all the major activities of the United Nations during 1998, was published in April 2001. Work is currently under way on the 1999 and 2000 volumes, and very shortly a CD-ROM covering the first 50 volumes of the Yearbook will be available. The quarterly *UN Chronicle* has, over the past year, expanded its proven format of providing in-depth coverage of a wide range of international issues to include features, articles and interviews by eminent contributors, both within and outside the Organization. The March-May 2001 issue carried a special feature section entitled "Cities in the New Century: Welcome to the Urban Millennium", which provided background to the special session of the General Assembly on human settlements. The June-August 2001 issue featured, among other things, a special section entitled "Beyond Tolerance", containing a collection of articles relating to the World Conference against Racism. In addition, the online version of the *Chronicle* in English and French has continued to expand.

50. During the past year, *United Nations Development Business*, which is available both in print and online, has continued its twice-monthly publication in partnership with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other leading lending institutions within and outside the United Nations system. The publication is issued in English, but also contains notices in French, Spanish and Portuguese. It continues to be the single most comprehensive and exclusive source of information on projects in a wide variety of sectors funded by the major development banks and other important financial institutions, as well as the United Nations system and government agencies. Those projects assist the developing countries in procuring goods and services at internationally competitive prices.

51. The Department has updated a number of its publications, taking into account feedback from target audiences. An updated edition of the popular *Basic Facts about the United Nations* has been produced in English and French, with the Spanish edition close to completion. Selected elements of the new edition have been posted on the United Nations web site. A new edition of *The UN in Brief* has been published in the six official languages, with portions posted on the web site.

52. Promotional activities by the Department's sales and marketing operation have resulted in the continued growth in sales of United Nations publications. There has been a significant expansion in the Asian and Pacific region, where sales have doubled in the past three years. The English-language version of the *United Nations Publications Catalogue, 2001-2002*, containing over a thousand titles, has been completed, and, in addition, catalogues were produced in Arabic, Russian and Spanish for targeted markets in cooperation with sales agents. The Department also continues to help promote the publications of a number of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies. In the area of product development, a similar level of cooperation has been evident in the Secretariat, resulting in new products, most notably the statistical database UNSTATS, produced by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which is now available on the Internet. An increase was seen in the number of new contracts for co-publication, translation and reprinting of United Nations publications, with over 40 new projects being concluded with, among others, Chinese, Japanese and Russian publishers. United Nations titles were also published in German and, for the first time, in the Bosnian and Serbian languages.

IX. Observations

53. The work of the Department of Public Information is not an end in itself. Its raison d'être is to help fulfil the substantive goals of the United Nations which, as the Secretary-General has repeatedly underscored, cannot be met without garnering public support for the Organization. The Department's efforts

to create an informed understanding of the Organization's work and purposes aims to ensure that the substantive work of the United Nations succeeds by ensuring that a global message reaches a worldwide audience. In so doing, the Department is working with all the departments and organizational units of the Secretariat to give them a public face and to help them to formulate their messages and disseminate them around the world. The programmes and activities detailed in the present report serve to illustrate how the Department is re-energizing its work, enhancing its efficiency and expanding its outreach to bring the United Nations message to the public around the globe.

54. The challenges facing the United Nations in conveying information about its activities to the world today should not be underestimated. The world is already suffering from "information overload"; the sheer volume of material that assails the public, from newspapers, radio, television and now the Internet, means that we are seeking to be heard amidst a cacophony. The subjects we work in, and seek to promote, are not necessarily the most interesting ones to the lay person: there is a limit to how much space an editor is therefore willing to allocate to issues of fundamental importance to the United Nations, from development to climate change. We are constantly seeking to raise concern about the problems of the poor and the strife-torn in the media of the rich and the tranquil, and constantly face the unspoken question from the developed world: why should we care?

55. The problem of the relatively low level of interest in our messages is compounded by the declining coverage of world affairs by the media in the developed world (a fact starkly apparent in the United States of America, where the 65 per cent reduction in the time allocated to world affairs by the major networks since 1980 has been amply documented). Trends in communications also make our task more difficult: to pick just one example, broadcasting is increasingly being supplanted by narrow-casting, with a proliferation of channels and media outlets all carrying increasingly specialized information to increasingly narrow audiences. No longer do we live in a world in which almost everyone who matters in every country sits down at the same hour to watch the same news broadcast. Reaching the public at large is now a much more complex task than ever before.

56. In this context, the Department of Public Information is vigorously using every means at its disposal to be heard. To this end, the enormous possibilities presented by the communications revolution have helped it to develop an infrastructure capable of the instantaneous transmission of text, image and voice messages from the Organization to the world, especially in providing immediate access for developing countries to United Nations news. Increased partnerships with media organizations, non-governmental organizations and other elements of civil society have ensured a "multiplier effect" for the United Nations message at the local level, as has the important work of the network of United Nations information centres around the world.

57. In sum, the Organization is deeply conscious, at the highest levels, of the importance of its information work, and is determined to continue to improve its efforts in this vital area, within the limited resources available to it, so as to ensure that the substantive purposes and goals of the United Nations are understood and fulfilled.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 21 and Addendum* (A/56/21 and Add.1).

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II).

Annex

Major activities of the Department of Public Information carried out in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/136 B

I. Institutional publications

(DPI number, sales number and/or symbol in brackets)

1. *United Nations Chronicle*, vol. XXXVII, Nos. 3 (December 2000, English and French) and 4 (March 2001, English and French) and vol. XXXVIII, Nos. 1 (June 2001, English and French) and 2 (August 2001, English and French)
2. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, vol. 52 (1998, English) [E.01.I.1]
3. "This Is the United Nations" (January 2001, English) [DPI/1938/Rev.2]
4. "Briefing papers for students" (April 2001, English) [DPI/2161]
5. "Together, One World" (June 2001, English) [DPI/2176]
6. *Basic Facts about the United Nations* (June 2001, English; August 2001, French) [DPI/2155]
7. *UN in Brief* (September 2000, Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish; February 2001, Russian) [DPI/2020/Rev.1]
8. General Assembly press kit (August 2001, English and French) [DPI/2210]
9. *Annual Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization: Common Destiny, New Resolve* (September 2000, English, French, Russian and Spanish; October 2000, Arabic and Chinese) [DPI/2153]
10. *The International Court of Justice: Questions and Answers about the Principal Judicial Organ of the United Nations*, booklet (January 2001, French; April 2001, Russian; August 2001, Spanish) [DPI/2065; E.99.I.25]
11. "Charter of the United Nations" (reprint) (December 2000, English; February 2001, French; March 2001, Spanish) [DPI/511]
12. Report of the International Commission of Inquiry on Côte d'Ivoire (July 2001, French) [DPI/2221]
13. Observations of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire on the report (July 2001, French) [DPI/2221 A]
14. "Media Guidelines for United Nations Officials" (May 2001, English and French) [DPI/2189]
15. "United Nations Conferences and Observances" (February 2001, English; March 2001, French) [Ref. paper 40]
16. *United Nations Documents Index*, parts 1 and 2 [E.00.I.14; ST/LIB/SER.N/5]
17. *United Nations Documents Index*, parts 1, 2 and 3 [E.00.I.18; ST/LIB/SER.N/6]
18. *United Nations Documents Index*, parts 1, 2 and 3 [E.00.I.20; ST/LIB/SER.N/7]

19. *United Nations Documents Index*, parts 1 and 2 [E.01.I.3; ST/LIB/SER.N/8]

20. *United Nations Documents Index*, parts 1 and 2 [E.01.I.8; ST/LIB/SER.N/9]

21. *Index to Proceedings of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year* (1999, English) [E.00.I.19; ST/LIB/SER.B/S.36]

22. *Index to Proceedings of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session* (1999, English) [E.01.I.10; ST/LIB/SER.B/E.76]

II. Thematic publications and activities

A. Human rights

1. "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights", booklet (December 2000, reprinted in English, French and Spanish) [DPI/876/Rev.2]

2. "International Decade for Indigenous People: Indigenous People — Partnership in Action", poster (reprinted January 2001, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/1813]

3. "The International Day for the World's Indigenous People", information kit (August 2001, English, French and Spanish)

   (a) "Peace pipe ceremony and Mohawk singers and dancers at United Nations" (media advisory)

   (b) Programme for the International Day

   (c) "International Day of the World's Indigenous People" (background press release)

   (d) "First permanent forum on indigenous issues to meet in New York, in May 2002" (press release)

   (e) "On the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson hails establishment of Special Rapporteur for indigenous people" (press release)

   (f) "United Nations working group focuses on indigenous populations" (backgrounder)

   (g) "The significance of land to indigenous peoples" (backgrounder)

   (h) "Mid-point of United Nations decade reflects action on indigenous issues"

   (i) "Totem Rhythms" (programme)

B. Peace and security

1. Background note: "United Nations Peacekeeping Operations" (October 2000 and January, March and June 2001, English and French update) [DPI/1634/Rev.17-20]

2. Background note: "United Nations Political and Peace-building Missions" (October 2000 and January, February and June 2001, English and French update) [DPI/2166/Rev.1-4]

3. United Nations peacekeeping from 1991 to 2000: statistical data and charts (December 2000, English and French) [DPI/2175]

4. United Nations peacekeeping timeline: 1948-2001 (update, September 2001, English) [DPI/2225]

5. "The United Nations and East Timor" (October 2000, Portuguese; forthcoming, Bahasa Indonesia) [DPI/2152]

6. Brochure on small arms (March 2001, English, French and Spanish; available on the web in Arabic, Chinese and Russian; in addition, Dutch, German and Portuguese versions were produced by United Nations information centres) [DPI/2183]

7. Poster on small arms (April 2001, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/2184]

8. Press kit on small arms (June 2001, English and French; partially available on the web in Spanish) [DPI/2195]

9. "Setting the record straight", fact sheet on small arms (July 2001, English; available on the web in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish)

C. Economic and social development

1. *UN Development Business*, twice monthly, vol. 24, Nos. 526-564 (English/French/Spanish/Portuguese)

2. *World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2002*; preliminary information booklet (April 2001, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/2191]

3. "UN points to agriculture as an escape from the 'poverty trap'", press release (September 2000, English)

4. "UN sees slow recovery in 2001", press release (July 2001, English)

5. *The United Nations and Global Commerce*, booklet (February 2001, English reprint) [DPI/2039]

6. *ECOSOC 2000: 50 Years of International Development Cooperation by the United Nations*, brochure (November 2000, reprint, English) [DPI/2150]

7. "ECOSOC 2000: Eradicating Hunger in the New Millennium", press kit [DPI/2165]

   (a) "Focus on ending world hunger: ECOSOC to meet 30 October with Heads of Rome-based UN agencies" (media advisory)

   (b) "Presentation by the Heads of the three Rome-based agencies on 'Eliminating Hunger in the New Millennium'" (President's summary)

   (c) Biographical note: Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan, President of IFAD

   (d) Biographical note: Catherine Bertini, Executive Director of WFP

   (e) Biographical note: Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO

8. "ECOSOC 2001: Supporting Africa's Efforts for Sustainable Development", press kit (June 2001, English)

   (a) "ECOSOC 2001 to focus on Africa, 2-27 July in Geneva" (press release)

   (b) "UN to host finance ministers from Bretton Woods institutions" (press release)

   (c) "Panel discussion on the United Nations: facing up to the challenges of eradicating poverty" (media advisory)

   (d) "Call for concerted attack on killer infectious diseases in Africa" (press release)

   (e) "Agriculture and sustainable food security in Africa" (media advisory)

   (f) "Panel discussion on higher education in Africa in the information age" (press advisory)

   (g) "Panel discussion on girls' education" (media advisory)

   (h) "Panel discussion on the gender dimension of HIV/AIDS" (media advisory)

   (i) "The challenge to sustainable development in Africa: the gender dimension of HIV/AIDS, peace and economic security" (background note)

9. "Financing for development: a critical global collaboration"

   (a) Press kit cover (January 2001, English) [DPI/2171]

   (b) "The global meeting on financing for development" (fact sheet)

   (c) "Financing for development — an imperative of the new century" (fact sheet)

   (d) "Business leaders talk with the United Nations on global capital flows"

   (e) *Preliminary agenda: preparations for a high-level consultation in 2002* (brochure)

   (f) "Kofi Annan appoints former Mexican President Zedillo to head panel on world's development financing needs" (press release)

   (g) "High-level Panel on Financing for Development" (report, June 2001, English)

   (h) "Proposals by Zedillo panel to fight poverty would alter international financial skyline"

   (i) Executive summary of the report of the High-level Panel on Financing for Development

   (j) Technical report of the High-level Panel on Financing for Development

   (k) Recommendations of the High-level Panel on Financing for Development

   (l) "Zedillo to launch ground-breaking report on financing for development" (media advisory)

(m) Biographical notes of members of the High-level Panel of eminent persons for Financing for Development

(n) "Global progress in economic and human development, 1950-2000" (fact sheet)

(o) "Global financial profile" (fact sheet)

(p) Financing for development information note

10. "The United Nation's Global Compact, one year on", information note (June 2001, English)

11. "Global Compact membership outreach", information note (June 2001, English)

12. "Global Compact progress reports" (June 2001, English)

13. "The Global Compact issues dialogue", list of participants (June 2001, English)

14. "Global Compact development projects" (June 2001, English)

15. "Framework agreements", information note (June 2001, English)

16. United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force

(a) Press kit cover (December 2000, English) [DPI/2172]

(b) "Taking action where the 'divide' runs deepest" (June 2001, English) [DPI/2218]

(c) "A prospectus for progress in closing the digital divide" ICT information note (October 2000, English) [DPI/2167]

(d) "Jose Maria Figueres, former President of Costa Rica appointed as UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on ICT", media advisory (November 2000, English)

(e) "High-tech panel headed by former Costa Rican President Figueres" (February 2001, English)

17. "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action", brochure (May 2001, English) [DPI/2170]

18. "The Beijing Declaration, Platform for Action and outcome summary of Beijing+5", booklet (September 2001, English) [DPI/1766/Rev.1]

19. "Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women", revised brochure (December 2000, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/1525/Rev.2]

20. "Fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations system", poster (June 2001, multilingual) [DPI/2217]

21. *The United Nations Youth Agenda: Empowering Youth for Development and Peace*, booklet (July 2001, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/2219]

22. "World Youth Forum of the United Nations system to meet in Dakar", backgrounder (June 2001, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/2220]

23. "United Nations General Assembly special session on social development: advancing social development in a globalizing world", brochure (December 2000, English) [DPI/2169]

24. "Fourth International Conference for New and Restored Democracies", press kit (November 2000, English and French)

    (a) Building momentum for democracy (backgrounder)

    (b) Secretary-General calls for greater United Nations role in assisting new democracies in report (UN News Service)

    (c) Sustaining the democratic mindset is the focus of December meeting in Benin (UN News Service)

    (d) Executive summary of the report of the Secretary-General

    (e) United Nations support for democratization is growing (backgrounder)

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

25. Poster (April 2001, English/French) [DPI/2188]

26. Press kit (April 2001, English and French) [DPI/2190]

    (a) "Taking action where poverty is toughest", information article [DPI/2190/A]

    (b) "The world's 49 least developed countries", fact sheet [DPI/2190/B]

    (c) "Opening doors for LDC exports" [DPI/2190/C]

    (d) "Connecting to the digital world" [DPI/2190/D]

    (e) "The NGO Forum" [DPI/2190/E]

    (f) "LDCs: The next generation" [DPI/2190/F]

    (g) "A place in the sun" [DPI/2190/G]

    (h) "The challenge of financing development in LDCs" [DPI/2190/H]

    (i) UNCTAD at a glance [DPI/2190/J]

Second World Assembly on Ageing

27. "Official logo selected for the Second World Assembly on Ageing", press release (May 2001, English and Spanish) [DPI/2182]

28. "Marcel Marceau named Goodwill Ambassador for the 2002 United Nations Second World Assembly on Ageing", press release (April 2001, English)

United Nations General Assembly special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

29. Poster (May 2001, English) [DPI/2212]

30. Brochure (April 2001, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/2192]

31. Press kit (May 2001, English and French) [DPI/2193]

    (a) "A voice for the voiceless" (message)

(b) Facts and figures

(c) "Istanbul+5: review and appraisal of the Habitat Agenda", report

(d) "Istanbul+5: an observer's guide to the negotiations"

(e) "The Thematic Committee: a new venue for Habitat Agenda partners"

(f) "The Habitat Agenda in the urban millennium"

(g) "A woman's place"

(h) "The right to adequate shelter in international instruments"

(i) "Best practices database and other Habitat resources"

(j) Contacts

United Nations General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS

32. Fact sheet (November 2000, English and French) [DPI/2173]

33. "Summary of the Secretary-General's call for action on HIV/AIDS", fact sheet (June 2001, English) [DPI/2211]

34. Poster (May 2001, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/2213]

35. Press kit cover (May 2001, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/2214]

Contents:

(a) Booklet of fact sheets:

- "An overview of the HIV/AIDS epidemic"
- "HIV/AIDS and development"
- "AIDS as a security issue"
- "HIV/AIDS, food security and rural development"
- "HIV/AIDS — a governance challenge"
- "HIV/AIDS care and support"
- "Preventing HIV/AIDS"
- "Preventing HIV/AIDS among young people"
- AIDS education — a battle against ignorance"
- "Drug use and HIV/AIDS"
- "Gender and HIV/AIDS"
- "World AIDS Campaign 2001"
- "Mother-to-child transmission of HIV"
- "Orphans and children in a world of AIDS"
- "The search for an HIV vaccine"
- "HIV/AIDS and the world of work"
- "The international partnership against AIDS in Africa"
- "What is UNAIDS?"
- "The Co-sponsors of UNAIDS"

(b) "UN special session on HIV/AIDS seeks to spur massive global response to crisis", press release

(c) "The Secretary-General's global call to action against HIV/AIDS", fact sheet

(d) "A global AIDS and health fund", fact sheet

(e) "Calculating the cost of an effective global campaign against HIV/AIDS", fact sheet

(f) "The United Nations at work: the fight against AIDS", fact sheet

(g) Media contacts

36. Brochure (April 2001, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/2194]

World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

37. Brochure (October 2000, English, French and Spanish, second revision) [DPI/2091/Rev.2]

38. Brochure (February 2001, English, French and Spanish, third revision) [DPI/2091/Rev.3]

39. Poster (February 2001, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/2122]

40. Press kit cover (April 2001, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/2185]

41. Brochure (April 2001, English, French and Spanish, third revision) [DPI/2187]

42. Press kit booklet (May 2001, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/2193]

Contents:

- "Tolerance and Diversity: A Vision for the 21st Century"
- "Why a World Conference Now?"
- "An Historical Perspective: Getting from There to Here"
- "At the Crossroads of Gender and Racial Discrimination"
- "The Race Dimensions of Trafficking in Persons — Especially Women and Children"
- "Working Far From Home — Migration and Discrimination"
- "The Phantom of Racism: Racism and Indigenous Peoples"
- "Multi-ethnic States and the Protection of Minority Rights"
- "High Commissioner for Human Rights Introduces Logo for the World Conference against Racism"
- Contacts

43. "High Commissioner for Human Rights introduces logo for World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance", press release (February 2001, English)

44. "International Day on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination", press release (March 2001, English)

45. "United Nations and MTV join to help young adults fight against racism", press release (March 2001, English)

46. "United Nations personal pledge against racism", postcard (March 2001, English)

D. Africa recovery

Africa Recovery (quarterly), vol. 14, No. 3 (October 2000, English and French), No. 4 (January 2001, English and French); vol. 15, Nos. 1-2 (June 2001, English and French)

E. Palestine and decolonization

"The United Nations and the question of Palestine", brochure (October 2000, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish) [DPI/2157]

F. United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

1. Brochure (March 2001, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/2178]

2. Poster (March 2001, English, French and Spanish) [DPI/2177]

G. Fact sheets and briefing notes issued in response to public enquiries and as part of the Department's school outreach programme (September 2000 to August 2001, English only)

1. Fact sheets

Revised fact sheets (October 2000)

(a) I am a student and would like to continue studies at a university in the United States of America. Can the United Nations provide financial assistance for my higher studies? (No. 1)

(b) How does a new State or Government obtain recognition by the United Nations? How does a country join the United Nations as a Member State? (No. 2)

(c) What is female mutilation? What actions are being taken to prevent it? (No. 3)

(d) What is the meaning of the United Nations emblem and flag? Are there any restrictions on their use? (No. 4)

(e) Why do diplomats enjoy privileges and immunities? Why are they not bound by criminal and administrative jurisdiction of the country where they serve? (No. 5)

(f) What is the United Nations stand on the issue of abortion? (No. 6)

(g) I am interested in joining the United Nations as tour guide. What do the guides do? What are the requirements? How do I apply? (No. 7)

(h) Does the United Nations have a hymn or national anthem? (No. 9)

(i) The Foucault Pendulum (No. 12)

New fact sheets

(a) United Nations observances (October 2000) (No. 8)

(b) What is the meditation room? (October 2000) (No. 19)

(c) What are the least developed countries? (October 2000) (No. 20)

(d) Teaching about the United Nations: resources from the United Nations (October 2000) (No. 21)

(e) Kofi Annan: United Nations Secretary-General (December 2000) (No. 22)

(f) The story of the United Nations Headquarters (January 2001) (No. 23)

(g) List of United Nations Member States (January 2001) (No. 24)

(h) United Nations membership of principal organs in 2001 (January 2001) (No. 25)

2. Briefing notes

(a) The role of the Secretary-General (revised, January 2001) (No. 4)

(b) Security Council in 2000: a round-up (February 2001) (No. 12)

H. Special programmes and exhibits

1. Events and observances produced from September 2000 to August 2001

(a) Millennium Peace Day, 19 September 2000, co-sponsored with Peace Day Committee

(b) Launch of World Space Week (October 4-10), 4 October 2000, Office for Outer Space Affairs, Department of Public Information, co-sponsored with Spaceweek International Association

(c) World Mental Health Day, 12 October 2000, co-sponsored with the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and the NGO Committee on Mental Health

(d) Messengers of Peace, Goodwill Ambassadors at the United Nations, 23 October 2000, Executive Office of Secretary-General

(e) United Nations Day concert 2000: a tribute to the Millennium Assembly on the centennial of the Vienna Symphony, 24 October 2000, sponsored by Austrian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, City of Vienna

(f) Fifth annual UN World Television Forum: "TV@GLOBE//adding values in the digital era", 16 and 17 November 2000, Department of Public Information in

partnership with RAI, Mediaset Group, WBU and NHK, with the sponsorship of EUTELSAT and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, with the support of the Permanent Missions of Italy and Japan to the UN, TGRT and Radicalfringe

(g) Opening ceremony: International Year of Volunteers, 28 November 2000, sponsored by United Nations Volunteers

(h) World AIDS Day: "Men Make a Difference", 1 December 2000, co-sponsored with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund

(i) The New York Festivals 2000 Advertising Awards Show, 2 February 2001, co-sponsored with The New York Festivals

(j) Launch of International Fund for Agricultural Development Rural Poverty Report, 5 February 2001, sponsored by IFAD

(k) UNIS/UN Student Conference — "Twenty-five years of UNIS/UN: Problems and Progress over the Past Quarter Century", 1 and 2 March 2001, United Nations International School

(l) United Nations Forum on Public Relations — "Youth and violence: addressing the problem through public relations", 15 March 2001, co-sponsored with the International Public Relations Association, Public Relations Society of America International Section, United Nations Association of New York City

(m) World Health Day — theme: "Mental health — stop exclusion: dare to care", 5 April 2001, co-sponsored with the World Health Organization, the NGO Committee on Mental Health and the United Nations Medical Service

(n) World Press Freedom Day: "Fighting racism and promoting diversity: the role of the free press", 3 May 2001, co-sponsored with the International Centre for Journalists

(o) Federated States of Micronesia launch of team Micronesia for "Tour de Sol Race", co-sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme, 15 May 2001

(p) UNIS Graduation, 31 May 2001, United Nations International School

(q) International Day of the World's Indigenous People, 9 August 2001, co-sponsored with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

2. Exhibits organized, designed and/or installed from August 2000 to August 2001

(a) Millennium Summit — banners, signage

(b) Sebastião Salgado: "The Children" and "Migrations"

(c) World Meteorological Organization: commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary

(d) International Fund for Agricultural Development: rural development report

(e) "Peace and security through disarmament", new exhibit for third floor of General Assembly Building, tour route

(f) United Nations Environment Programme and Canon: "Focus on Your World", photographs of environmental calamities

(g) United Nations Volunteers: commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary

(h) Division for Palestinian Rights: "The Land", annual fine art exhibition

(i) Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: "The Refugee's Journey"

(j) Department of Public Information: Posters of the United Nations, 1945 to the present

(k) United Nations Children's Fund and Penguin Putnam: "For Every Child"

(l) United States Committee for UNICEF: International Environmental Children's Drawing Contest

(m) Department of Public Information and Art 2000 Trust: peace banners by youth from Ireland and Canada

(n) Commission for Sustainable Development and Habitat: "Integrated Communities", designs for the ageing by architecture students

(o) United Nations Population Fund and Magnum Photos "Can We Feed Ourselves?"

(p) United Nations Development Programme: "Rural Villages"

(q) Department of Public Information/International Day on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination/World Conference against Racism preview

(r) Department of Public Information/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: Chernobyl children's project

(s) Department of Public Information and Italy: Mediterranean archaeological discoveries (United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations)

(t) Department of Public Information and Habitat: "The Urban Millennium", NGO and government partners

(u) Department of Public Information and Habitat: "Slum Dwellers International", Bombay

(v) Department of Public Information, Kaiser Family Foundation, network photographers: "Positive Lives", contact press images, "Don't Look Away: AIDS in Southern Africa"

(w) Department of Public Information: orphans/children's art

(x) Department of Public Information: quilts/embroidered prayers from South Africa

(y) Department of Public Information and Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation: art by AIDS Orphans

(z) Department of Public Information and Department for Disarmament Affairs: gun sculpture, "Inhuman"

(aa) Department of Public Information and Department for Disarmament Affairs: "Arms into Plowshares", Mozambique

(bb) Department of Public Information: Racism Pledge; World Conference Against Racism; Youth Art

(cc) Department of Public Information and Survivors Art Foundation: Indigenous Day totems by Native Americans

3. **Travelling exhibits, August 2000-August 2001**

(Exhibits designed and produced by the Department of Public Information in New York and sent to other exhibition venues)

(a) "A Half-Century of United Nations Peacekeeping":

Accra, July-August 2000
Harare, August-September 2000
Addis Ababa, October-November 2000
Islamabad, December 2000-February 2001
Vienna, May 2001

(b) "For a Better World", United Nations poster exhibition:

Paris, April-May 2001
Geneva, July 2001

III. United Nations information centres

A. Millennium Summit

1. Media outreach activities: 118, including 28 interviews and 45 media campaigns and media arrangements
2. Productions: 130, including 57 local-language print productions and 4 multimedia/CD-ROM productions
3. Special events: 48, including concerts, exhibits, etc.
4. Education outreach activities: 46, including Model United Nations conferences
5. Public outreach activities: 162, including 95 activities under the theme of "The United Nations Works" campaign and 33 speeches and lectures
6. Miscellaneous activities: 34, including information support, assistance to visiting United Nations officials, etc.

Total: 538

B. Peace and security

1. Media outreach activities: 180, including 29 press conferences and press briefings and 24 press releases (locally produced)
2. Productions: 125, including 49 local-language print productions and 70 translations of messages of the Secretary-General and United Nations system press releases
3. Special events: 76, including concerts, exhibits, etc.
4. Education outreach activities: 137, including Model United Nations conferences

5. Public outreach activities: 219, including 20 film and video screenings and 55 seminars, round tables, workshops and conferences

6. Miscellaneous activities: 174, including information support, assistance to visiting United Nations officials, etc.

Total: 912

C. Economic and social development

1. Media outreach activities: 751, including 68 interviews and 242 press conferences and press briefings

2. Productions: 384, including 16 newsletters and news bulletins and 93 local-language print productions

3. Special events: 90, including concerts, exhibits, etc.

4. Education outreach activities: 182, including Model United Nations conferences

5. Public outreach activities: 429, including 149 seminars, round tables, workshops and conferences and 19 panel discussions

6. Miscellaneous activities: 417, including information support, assistance to visiting United Nations officials, etc.

Total: 2,253

D. Human rights

1. Media outreach activities: 129, including 37 interviews and 6 public service announcements

2. Productions: 127, including 44 local-language print productions and 17 radio and television programmes

3. Special events: 79, including concerts, exhibits, etc.

4. Education outreach activities: 138, including Model United Nations conferences

5. Public outreach activities: 208, including 29 briefings (non-media) and 79 speeches and lectures

6. Miscellaneous activities: 138, including information support, assistance to visiting United Nations officials, etc.

Total: 819

E. Other United Nations themes

1. Media outreach activities: 626, including 135 press conferences and press briefings and 19 newspaper supplements
2. Productions: 624, including 124 local-language print productions and 421 translations of messages of the Secretary-General and United Nations system press releases
3. Special events: 311, including concerts, exhibits, etc.
4. Education outreach activities: 521, including Model United Nations conferences
5. Public outreach activities: 725, including 97 film and video screenings and 300 speeches and lectures
6. Miscellaneous activities: 500, including information support, assistance to visiting United Nations officials, etc.

Total: 3,307

F. Centre reference libraries

Visitors to United Nations information centre reference libraries: 132,277

G. Dissemination and Communications Unit output

(Sent to information centres, UNDP field offices and peacekeeping missions)

1. Email transmissions (United Nations documents, press releases, backgrounders, etc.): 4,264,522 pages
2. Hard copies (Department of Public Information and other United Nations materials) distributed: 1,266,548 copies
   - Initial distribution: 810,048 copies
   - Secondary requests: 456,500 copies
3. Documents sent by special couriers and customized pouches: 928

IV. Briefings and workshops for non-governmental organizations

A. Briefings, September 2000-June 2001

(Department of Public Information briefings for non-governmental organizations take place each Thursday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and are attended by an average of 175 NGO representatives)

1. An overview of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly
2. Envisioning the Second World Assembly on Ageing (April 2002)

3. Civil society and the United Nations conference on illicit trade in small arms (June/July 2001)
4. World Space Week and the contributions of space to sustainable development
5. United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, 2001
6. Tourism and human rights today
7. Women: violence, peace and security
8. International Year of Volunteers
9. International Day of Disabled Persons
10. World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (31 August to 8 September 2001)
11. Children and their future in a troubled world
12. Tracking global persistent organic pollutants
13. The role of blood diamonds in fuelling the conflicts in Africa
14. Caring communities for the twenty-first century: imagining the possible: the age of longevity
15. Financing for development: an update
16. New approaches to human rights education
17. International Women's Day — women and peace: women managing conflict
18. Millennium Forum follow-up
19. Youth combating racism: marking the International Day of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
20. Small arms: a humanitarian issue
21. Update on preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the International Conference on Biodiversity and Society
22. Update on the implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations
23. Global Compact partnerships
24. Chernobyl commemoration: economics of a catastrophe
25. World Press Freedom Day: "Fighting racism and promoting diversity: the role of the free press"
26. Millennium Forum and Millennium Summit follow-up
27. International Day of Families: "Families and volunteerism: building social cohesion"
28. The Habitat Agenda, Istanbul + 5: in the twenty-first century

B. Communication workshops

(The NGO Section organizes three one-day communication workshops in partnership with the Department of Public Information/NGO Executive Committee to help United Nations-associated NGOs improve their capacity to gather, package and disseminate information about the United Nations for their constituents, using the latest information technology. Average attendance: 90 NGO representatives).

1. Topic: Communication Skills for NGOs: Presenting Your Case (30 November 2000)
2. Topic: Public Relations for NGOs (15 February 2001)
3. Topic: NGOs: Working with Permanent Missions to the United Nations (31 May 2001)

V. Video productions

1. "UN in Action", 57 three- to five-minute video news magazine items, released in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish between 1 September 2000 and 31 August 2001 (Nos. 695-752)
2. "CNN World Report", 67 two-and-a-half-minute video news items (57 made from "UN in Action" plus 10 specials), produced for CNN in English from 1 September 2000 to 31 August 2001
3. "World Chronicle", 39 thirty-minute panel talk shows with senior United Nations officials, ambassadors and celebrities who serve the United Nations in different capacities, released between 1 September 2000 and 31 August 2001 (Nos. 790-828)
4. "Year in Review 2000", a 15-minute video documentary presenting highlights of United Nations activities during the year in all six official languages
5. "Together We Can", a 28-minute video documentary produced in association with UNAIDS and Synergy Films on the issue of AIDS in South Africa
6. "United Nations Millennium Summit", a 28-minute documentary of record presenting highlights from the three days of the Summit's proceedings and the issues addressed by the Summit and emphasizing the historic nature of the occasion
7. Compilation videos provision of compilation video news release and B-roll video packages to international television news syndicators on thematic and news-related United Nations topics and material pertinent to major United Nations meetings and events
8. "Economic and Social Council presentational video", a 6-minute, 44-second curtain raiser on economic development, investment and trade in Africa, screened at the high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva
9. "International Women's Day Video", a 7-minute, 23-second curtain raiser on the role of women in the peace process

10. "Conflict Diamonds", a 9-minute, 42-second video on the role diamonds play in financing local conflicts in a number of African countries

11. Two 20-second television public service announcements produced in cooperation with ABC: one on the theme of "American Heroes", featuring American nationals working with the United Nations in the field of human assistance; the other for children on the theme of "Endangered Animals", highlighting the role of the United Nations in their protection

VI. Special radio feature programmes and series

1. Special radio series: a two-part series entitled "Safe Haven for Child Workers in the Philippines" in English with an adaptation into the non-official languages

2. Special radio round-table discussion: United Nations Radio on 22 February 2001 organized a radio round-table discussion on the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was the first time ever that some of the key players in this conflict were brought together to discuss the issue on United Nations Radio. The participants included Leonard She Okitundu, the Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Marc Nteturuye, the Ambassador of Burundi to the United Nations, Patrick Mazimhaka, Minister in the Presidency of Rwanda, and Erick Silwamba, Minister for Presidential Affairs of Zambia

VII. Electronic publishing

A. Department of Public Information online publications

1. United Nations conferences and observances:

   English: http://www.un.org/events/ref40htm
   French: http://www.un.org/french/events/conf01.htm
   Spanish: http://www.un.org/spanish/conferences/ref40/ref40.htm

2. *Basic Facts about the United Nations*: summary (English — to be posted in August 2001)

3. Report of the international Commission of Enquiry on Côte d'Ivoire: French: http://www.un.org/french/hr/ivory.htm

4. *UN Chronicle* (extracts):

   English: http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle
   French: http://www.un.org/pubs/french/chronique

5. *Africa Recovery* (http://www.africarecovery.org) (English and French)

6. *UN Development Business* online (http://www.devbusiness.com) (English/French/Spanish/Portuguese)

B. Original output by the Department available only on the Internet

1. United Nations publications web page contains comprehensive information on sales publications. The site includes English, French and Spanish titles as well as those from a number of United Nations funds and programmes (http://www.un.org/publications)

2. United Nations Bookshop web page: customers from around the world can visit the United Nations Bookshop and view a wide variety of products, including books, posters and gift items relating to the Organization and its work (http://www.un.org/Pubs/bookshop)

C. Web pages designed by the Department and United Nations materials made available by the Department on the Internet

Coverage of conferences (including press releases, documents, statements, photos, webcast, final reports/declarations, as available, in the six official languages)

1. Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

2. Special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

3. Special session of the United Nations General Assembly on HIV/AIDS

4. Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

5. World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

6. Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

7. Second World Assembly on Ageing

New sites for observances and events (most done in the six official languages)

8. World Environment Day

9. International Media Encounter on the Question of Palestine

10. World Press Freedom Day

11. International Women's Day

12. World AIDS Day (including webcast)

13. Fourth Conference on New or Restored Democracies

14. United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

15. United Nations World Television Forum

16. United Nations Day

17. Webcast of Security Council debate on women, peace and security

18. Meeting of Messengers of Peace and Goodwill Ambassadors (including webcast)

19. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Other pages

20. Redesign of the press release/briefings search pages

21. Agenda and documents of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly in the six official languages

22. Verbatim records of the plenary meetings of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly in the six official languages

23. Committee on Information web site in the six official languages

24. *The UN Works*: a cybermagazine highlighting how the United Nations has helped real people

25. Basic Facts about the United Nations: an online version that provides a sampling of the publication (to be launched shortly)

26. Frequently asked questions

27. "Depleted uranium", a page on the health effects of uranium in the six official languages

28. Report of the High-level Panel on Financing for Development (Zedillo report) in the six official languages

29. Organization chart of the United Nations system — updated in PDF and printable formats with appropriate hyperlinks

30. Webcasts from the United Nations: lists webcast events and archived material for viewing on demand

31. United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission: non-English versions

32. Conferences and observances: updated every February in all six official languages

D. Online research tools of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library

1. UNBISNET: major bibliographic and factual databases (http://unbisnet.un.org)

2. Documents alert: identifies important United Nations documents, including brief annotations (http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/da)

3. UN-I-QUE (United Nations Info Quest): database providing quick access to document symbols and sales numbers of selected United Nations materials from 1946 (http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/unique)

4. United Nations documentation research guide: an overview of United Nations documentation (http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide)

5. United Nations system Pathfinder: a guide to major United Nations and specialized agency reference sources and frequently requested reports (http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/pathfind/frame/start.htm)

6. The technical assistance programme for small and field libraries (http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/sflib/index.html), offering United Nations field librarians one-stop access to United Nations electronic documentation, library management tools and a virtual library

7. United Nations conferences and observances, accessible directly from a frame on the main web site, changes every one to four weeks and provides linkages to United Nations web sites and documents related to the current observances

8. Page in commemoration of Dag Hammarskjöld (as from 30 September 2001)

E. Online research tools of the Cartographic Section

Cartographic site, containing up-to-date peacekeeping maps, regional and country profile maps and information on cartographic resources (http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic)

F. Joint ventures

The Sales and Marketing Section of the Department of Public Information is cooperating with the International Civil Service Commission, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Information Technology Services Division to make available over the Internet subscription-based services for the daily subsistence allowance rates, *The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, UNSTATS, the United Nations Treaty Collection and the Official Document System (http://www.un.org/Pubs/whatsnew/online1)

VIII. Other activities and outputs

A. Public services, September 2000 to August 2001

1. Participation in guided tours at Headquarters: 283,758

2. Group briefings organized at Headquarters:

   Briefings: 1,077
   Groups: 365
   Participants: 27,201

3. Speaking engagements away from Headquarters organized by the Group Programmes and Community Liaison Unit:

   Engagements: 25
   Size of audience: 5,645

4. Videoconferences organized by the Group Programmes and Community Liaison Unit:

   Videoconferences: 20
   Size of audience: 1,690

5. Queries from the public answered by the Public Inquiries Unit: 44,487

6. Petitions from the public received by the Public Inquiries Unit: 6,000

B. Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General, September 2000 to August 2001

1. Daily press briefings by the Spokesman for the Secretary-General

2. Press conferences by Member States: 141

3. Press conferences with the Secretary-General: 27

4. Press encounters with the Secretary-General: 119

5. Press conferences with senior officials: 153

6. Interviews with the Secretary-General: 45

C. Sales and Marketing Section

1. Promotional output, September 2000-August 2001:

   The United Nations Publications Catalogue 2001-2002 in Arabic, English and Spanish: subject-specific catalogues on global business, children, international law and the Asian and Pacific region, and United Nations University and International Organization for Migration publications were produced and mailed to customers; 28 individual flyers were produced and mailed, including promotions in the areas of international economics, social development, statistics, environment, political and legal issues as well as for selected annual reports and yearbooks; displays of United Nations publications were coordinated at 48 book fairs and professional conferences worldwide (18 direct and 30 indirect participations); over 70 advertisements promoting United Nations publications were placed in key professional journals and academic media reaching 2,720,362 readers; more than 350 United Nations publications were reviewed by professional journals; over 900 academics were contacted twice a year by email to announce spring and fall book selections available through the academic textbook programme.

2. Cooperative distribution agreements to sell publications were maintained with the United Nations University, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the International

Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

3. Over 40 new co-publication and reprint contracts relating to United Nations publications were concluded during the period.

D. Cartographic Section, September 2000 to August 2001

1. Preparation of maps:

   New maps: 26
   Revisions of State, regional and world maps: 23
   New peacekeeping maps: 1
   Revision of peacekeeping maps: 37

2. Provision of maps:

   Black-and-white prints and film negatives for reproduction: 130
   Digital files: 84
   Large-format colour plots for briefings: 29
   Colour copies for meetings, general distribution: 475

3. Map services provided to the Security Council:

   Meetings serviced: 167
   Maps prepared for briefings: 80

4. Reprint permissions granted to external publishers: 128

5. Requests for editorial service for clearance of maps: 160

6. Management of the cartographic web site:

   Queries handled: 468
   Maps posted on the web site: 82
   Web pages updated: 125

7. Conferences:

   Meetings organized by the Cartographic Section: 4
   Participation in international conferences: 7

E. Dag Hammarskjöld Library

As at 30 June 2001

1. United Nations depository libraries worldwide, as at 30 June 2001: 394

2. Exchange arrangements with institutions worldwide, as at 30 June 2001: 1,239

3. Electronic resources available in the Library, as at 30 June 2001: 374

4. Missions, Governments and intergovernmental offices with access to web-based UNBISNET database, as at 30 June 2001: open to all

5. United Nations System Consortium members, as at 30 June 2001: 52

July 2000 to June 2001:

6. United Nations documents and publications acquired: 156,507

7. Specialized agencies documents and publications: 3,040

8. External publications acquired: 55,675

9. Records added to UNBIS: 41,163

10. Group training sessions on the Internet, United Nations documentation organized by the Library: 191

11. Digitized documents uploaded to ODS: 7,869

12. Reference queries answered by the Library: 59,333

13. Loans processed by the Library: 6,618

14. Materials photocopied for Library users: 505,827

15. Hits on Library web site, including UNBISNET: 1,729,823

F. Radio output, September 2000 to 31 August 2001

Productions

1. Daily live broadcasts in the six United Nations official languages and the daily broadcast in Portuguese: 1,817

2. Radio weekly current affairs magazines in four languages (Bangla, Chinese, English, Kiswahili): 273

3. Radio weekly features and regional magazines in 14 languages (Bangla, Chinese, Dutch, English, French, French-Creole, Hindi, Indonesian, Kiswahili, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and Urdu): 922

Programmes posted on the Internet

4. Daily live broadcasts: 1,650

Arabic:	http://www.un.org/arabic/av/radio/news/dailynews.htm
Chinese:	http://www.un.org/chinese/av/radio/latenews.htm
English:	http://www.un.org/english/av/radio/news/latenews.htm
French:	http://www.un.org/french/audiovis/radio/latenews.htm
Russian:	http://www.un.org/russian/av/radio/latenews.htm
Spanish:	http://www.un.org/spanish/news/audiovis/radio/latest.htm
Portuguese:	(daily but not live. Posting started only from 8 May 2001) http://www.un.org/av/radio/portuguese/index.htm

5. Features and magazines in six languages (Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish): 514

   Programmes posted on the Electronic Bulletin Board: 1,045

Dissemination

6. From International Broadcasting Centre via telephone ad hoc feeds: 2,233+

7. Via email/FTP: 36

G. United Nations television and video, September 2000 to June 2001

1. Bookings 2,543, including events covered, in-house services (dubbing, mixing, narrating, etc.) and services to outsiders (broadcasters, correspondents)

2. Requests:
   Tapes: 773 (estimate)
   Duplication of tapes: 1,012 (estimate)

3. Service to syndicators:
   Feeds: 1,008 (estimated)
   Packages: 940

H. Audio-visual, September 2000 to June 2001

1. Audio events covered: 3,091

   Incoming materials:
   Feeds: 374
   Interviews: 25

   Radio programmes: 1,045
   Dubs: 17,571
   Loans: 4,726

2. Visual:

   Number of requests (including research): 631

   Number of videotape duplications (excluding film transfers done by an outside film lab): 1,014

   Number of events and productions logged: 1,852

   Number of items requiring in-depth cataloguing (including conversion of index cards): 77

I. Photographic, September 2000 to August 2001

1. Photo postings: 1,064
2. Photos downloaded from United Nations web site: 43,577,708
3. Customer requests: 8,693
4. Pieces distributed: 1,943
5. Secretary-General's trips: 27
6. Photos accessioned: 3,589
   Digital: 535
   Conventional: 3,054
   Captions written: 3,283

J. Promotion and distribution, September 2000 to August 2001

Specific titles (free and sales)

1. "Year in Review": 348
2. "Armed to the Teeth": 777
3. "Legacies of War": 542
4. "A Work in Progress: Human Rights in Haiti": 23
5. "Millennium Summit": 16
6. "UN in Action" (featurettes): 71
7. "World Chronicle" (programmes): 17
8. "UN in Action" (programmes sent free from Headquarters): 9,215
9. "World Chronicle" (programmes sent free from Headquarters): 1,968
10. Videos sent (no charge to field office libraries for previews, festival entries, complimentary cassettes): 1,651
11. Television public service announcements and messages (sent free from Headquarters): 1,237
12. Films/videos sold directly from the Multimedia Resources Unit at Headquarters: 167
13. Television sales made directly from the Multimedia Resources Unit at Headquarters: (to be provided)
14. Public service announcements sold directly from the Multimedia Resources Unit at Headquarters: (to be provided)
15. "World Chronicle" compilations sold from the Multimedia Resources Unit at Headquarters: (to be provided)
16. "UN in Action" featurettes sold from the Multimedia Resources Unit at Headquarters: 33
17. Loans/previews/cassettes: 64 loans/55 screenings
18. Speakers' aids lent from the Multimedia Resources Unit at Headquarters: (actual number of videos)

Promotional materials

19. Television and video catalogues: 1,450
20. "World Chronicle" catalogues: 250
21. "UN in Action" catalogues: 340
22. Brochures: 7,700
23. Booklets: 25
24. Flyers: 35,400
25. Cassette covers: 970

26. Flyers, promo packages, theme/language lists, United States distributors' list, price list, order forms, photocopied "UN in Action" and "World Chronicle" catalogues, brochures, scripts, synopses, etc.)

Total pages: 160,200

K. Multimedia productions

1. United Nations multimedia web page (in the six official languages)
2. Multimedia web pages produced: 45
3. "UN in Action" web database with search
4. Promotional movies and slide shows in Flash: 12
5. Audio files digitized/encoded: 9
6. Video files digitized/encoded: 71

United Nations A/56/412

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 September 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 20 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Humanitarian assistance to the Republic of the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General*

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1	2
II.	Current humanitarian situation in the Sudan	2–6	2
III.	Emergency humanitarian operations, including Operation Lifeline Sudan	7–70	2
IV.	Action taken by Member States	71–73	12
V.	Concluding observations	74–78	12

* The delay in the submission of the report is due to developments in the situation in the Republic of the Sudan.

01-55480 (E) 181001

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in compliance with paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 54/96 J of 22 December 1999, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize and coordinate resources and support for Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the emergency situation in the affected areas and the recovery, rehabilitation and development of the Sudan. It contains a review of the current situation in the Sudan, detailing humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations and its partners during the period from 15 July 1999 to 15 July 2001.

II. Current humanitarian situation in the Sudan

2. Humanitarian assistance to the Sudan continues to be implemented against the backdrop of the long-standing civil war between the Government of the Sudan and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement and Liberation Army (SPLM/A) and other movements. SPLM/A control extensive areas of southern Sudan across the East and West Equatoria, Lakes, Upper Nile and Bahr al-Ghazal regions.

3. Ongoing armed conflict between the military forces of the parties to the conflict and their allied militias, both in the south and in the so-called transitional zone between the northern and southern parts of the country, continues to threaten already fragile coping mechanisms among communities. The conflict continues to create widespread displacement of civilian populations and to destroy crops and infrastructure. Agricultural and pastoral activities among farming communities, including the all-important planting and harvesting cycles, are continually disrupted.

4. Military activities over recent months, particularly in the Nuba Mountains and in western Bahr al-Ghazal, have displaced tens of thousands of civilians. Endemic conflict in the Unity State/western Upper Nile localities in the southern part of the country is also giving rise to displacement on a considerable scale. The activities of various semi-autonomous militia groups allied to one side or the other, or sometimes acting independently, add to the instability and chaos.

5. The humanitarian situation for the war-affected and the displaced is compounded by natural disasters in many parts of the country. The Darfur and Kordofan regions of western Sudan, Red Sea Hills in the east, Bahr al-Ghazal in the south-west and East Equatoria in the southern part of the country have suffered and continue to suffer from the effects of prolonged drought and occasional floods. Inevitably, the most vulnerable communities bear the brunt of these effects, which also lead to displacement as conditions worsen in home localities. The potential for conflict both among and between communities intensifies as they compete for increasingly scarce resources of food and water and for employment opportunities.

6. In such widespread circumstances of disruption to livelihoods and displacement, mostly as a result of war and drought, malnutrition among the very young and the elderly remains a source of constant concern. Beneficiary communities continue to rely heavily for survival on emergency food and other relief assistance in health, water and environmental sanitation, and education. For the reporting period of the last two years, the overall number of beneficiaries has remained at around three million.

III. Emergency humanitarian operations, including Operation Lifeline Sudan

A. General observations

7. Humanitarian operations in the Sudan during the reporting period continued to pursue a dual objective of life-saving and life-sustaining activities. For the United Nations, this objective was reflected and outlined in the Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeals for 2000 and 2001.

8. For the war-affected areas in the southern part of the country, the principal umbrella and vehicle for the implementation of humanitarian relief activities continues to be the OLS access agreements, endorsed by the Government of the Sudan, SPLM/A and the United Nations. The Government and SPLM/A continue to reaffirm their support for OLS and the humanitarian activities which are carried out under its auspices. In April 2001, the Government formally

advised the United Nations that, in a change to the practice which had evolved over the years of the OLS humanitarian programme, all international humanitarian workers operating in the rebel-controlled areas of southern Sudan under the umbrella of OLS should have entry visas for the Sudan.

9. The current strategic approach of the United Nations is structured around three themes which recognize the imperative of addressing the most immediate needs, the enduring consequences and, where possible, the root causes of armed conflict. These themes are as follows:

(i) Emergency preparedness and emergency response, involving preparation and response to acute emergencies and support for community preparedness;

(ii) Internal displacement, focusing on the needs of displaced and host populations, including the long-term displaced;

(iii) Peace-building, aiming at the facilitation of community-based rehabilitation of services and peace-building efforts.

10. The coordination of humanitarian affairs by the United Nations in the Sudan rests with the Office of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator (formerly the Coordinator for Emergency and Relief Operations), based in Khartoum. This office deals with strategic coordination and humanitarian access issues and promotes regular meetings with and among counterparts (e.g. the Government of the Sudan and SPLM/A), donors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and others. The Humanitarian Coordinator has two deputies. The Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator (south), based in Nairobi, is responsible for humanitarian operations in rebel-held areas which come under negotiated access agreements and is also the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Chief of Operations for southern Sudan. The Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator (north), based in Khartoum, is also the World Food Programme (WFP) Country Director for the Sudan.

11. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the Sudan provides secretariat and other support services both in Khartoum and Nairobi for the Humanitarian Coordinator and his two deputies. In addition, OCHA-Sudan functions as the secretariat for the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs for the Sudan and for the tripartite Technical Committee on Humanitarian Assistance (TCHA), comprising the Government of the Sudan, SPLM/A and the United Nations.

12. A network of OCHA field coordination offices in key locations throughout the Sudan, staffed by national field officers, completes the core support structure for overall coordination of the humanitarian operation. The terms of reference for these field officers include assistance with coordination for humanitarian actors at the field level, assistance with the organization and servicing of local meetings, the identification of gaps in humanitarian assistance, early warning and monitoring of impending disasters, protection and other responsibilities in respect of vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons, and the achievement of humanitarian access.

13. The Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs for the Sudan visited the country four times during the reporting period, on average every six months. The broad purpose of these visits was to discuss with the Government (in Khartoum) and SPLM/A (in Nairobi) matters of mutual concern in relation to the humanitarian assistance programme for the Sudan, including OLS. The Special Envoy was able to address at the highest levels such issues as humanitarian ceasefires and the violations thereof, armed attacks on civilians and on humanitarian personnel, issues of humanitarian access and the implementation of commitments arising from the meetings of TCHA.

14. The Special Envoy also acts as the chairman of TCHA, which met twice in Geneva in the course of the reporting period, December 1999 and November 2000. The principal objective of the most recent Geneva meeting was to review the implementation of the agreements and protocols arising from the previous three meetings, with particular reference to the Security and Beneficiary Protocols. A related objective was to reactivate efforts to achieve cross-line movement of humanitarian services and supplies by river, road and rail.

15. Between meetings of TCHA, the United Nations assumes the responsibility of leading efforts to ensure compliance with agreements reached at the meetings. A particular initiative in this respect during 2000 was the assembly in (one) pocket booklet form of the three key TCHA agreements, namely the Security and

Beneficiary Protocols and the Minimal Operational Standards for Rail Corridors and Cross-line Road Corridors. The booklet is in both English and Arabic and has been widely disseminated within the humanitarian community, as well as to the Government, SPLM and related organizations.

B. Security situation affecting humanitarian relief efforts

16. A series of unilateral humanitarian ceasefires, which were put in place concurrently by the Government and SPLM/A in July 1998 in the wake of the Bahr al-Ghazal humanitarian crisis of that year and renewed every three months after consultations with the United Nations, were allowed to lapse in July 2000 despite United Nations pressure on both parties to continue. These humanitarian ceasefires have thus far not been renewed. Against the foregoing background of deepening international concern, renewed efforts to launch an effective peace process and internal grass-roots peace initiatives, the civil war continues. That state of affairs not only gives rise to ongoing and additional humanitarian needs, but also tends to place limits on both the scope and level of humanitarian response and on efforts to meet those needs.

17. Tragic incidents in which humanitarian workers were victims during the reporting period highlight the considerable risks of operating in such a dangerous environment of armed conflict. In December 1999, two employees of the NGO Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) International were killed and two were taken hostage (later released) while travelling by road between Bentiu and Mayom in the Upper Nile region. At around the same time, eight church aid workers were killed by the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in East Equatoria. In February 2000, a United Nations aircraft with four people on board was taken hostage for 10 days at Old Fanjak in Upper Nile. In August 2000, the Organization suspended humanitarian air operations throughout the Sudan, following the aerial bombardment of United Nations aircraft and facilities on the ground at Mapel in the Lakes region. In December 2000, two NGO humanitarian workers were ambushed and killed in East Equatoria. In March 2001, four NGO humanitarian workers from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) were detained by a militia leader and then questioned by the Government before eventually being released. Also in March 2001, two humanitarian workers involved with the World Health Organization (WHO) in the poliomyelitis campaign were killed in an attack on a village in Upper Nile. In May 2001, a pilot with the International Committee of the Red Cross, on a scheduled authorized flight, was killed by ground fire in East Equatoria.

18. These incidents are among the most serious ones suffered during the reporting period. There have been many others, making the Sudan one of the most dangerous operating environments for relief workers. It remains of the utmost concern to the United Nations that in none of the most serious cases have any persons been brought to justice.

C. Access

19. Negotiations on humanitarian access with the Government, SPLM/A and other groups in opposition to the Government constitute a core activity for the Office of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan, supported by the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinators in Khartoum and Nairobi. Such negotiations are also a core element of the work of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs for the Sudan and for TCHA. OCHA-Sudan assists all parties with these negotiations.

20. Under TCHA auspices, both the Government and SPLM/A have endorsed the principle of unimpeded access to beneficiaries. Notwithstanding this commitment, limitations on access have continued to be experienced throughout the reporting period, including in areas of East Equatoria, Upper Nile, Bahr al-Ghazal and the Nuba Mountains. In particular, flight access continued to be denied on a regular basis for flights into areas of East Equatoria and Upper Nile and, more recently, Bahr al-Ghazal. To some extent it has been possible to reach these flight-denied locations by other means, but at added cost and inconvenience.

21. Efforts by the United Nations over the course of the reporting period to achieve cross-line road, river and rail deliveries of relief supplies, including under the auspices of TCHA, have so far come to nothing. Insecurity along the river and rail corridors and the presence of landmines on roads are among the major constraints to the achievement of cross-line movement,

which, among other things, could ease the prohibitive costs of deliveries by air.

22. Similarly, United Nations efforts to launch an integrated programme of relief and rehabilitation in the Nuba Mountains have stalled on the question of the corridors of air access to the rebel-controlled areas. The Government maintains that this must be effected via the airport at El Obeid, while SPLM insists on direct access from the United Nations/OLS operational base at Lokichoggio in northern Kenya. The United Nations has, however, managed to achieve, in consultation with both parties and on a case-by-case basis, emergency access on six occasions through El Obeid for assessment purposes and for the nationwide poliomyelitis vaccination campaign. Nonetheless, since April 2001, the vaccination campaign has been stalled owing to inability to negotiate access with the parties.

23. OCHA-Sudan facilitated the long-running negotiations between SPLM/A and the international NGO community on a proposed memorandum of understanding between SPLM/A and the NGOs, with that particular issue being resolved during the course of 2000. The memorandum of understanding is an SPLM/A mechanism to play a larger role in regulating the activities of international NGOs in SPLM-held areas. Further negotiations on fee-for-service arrangements between the same parties, which began in late 2000, are ongoing.

24. International humanitarian operations in the Sudan, including OLS, are bolstered by United Nations security support structures in both northern and southern sectors, based in Khartoum and Lokichoggio, respectively. The Security Protocol (see paras. 14 and 15 above) agreed to under the auspices of TCHA seeks to govern the movement and coverage of United Nations security activities, which are aimed at the safety and welfare of humanitarian workers.

25. These security structures continue to prove their effectiveness with assessments of locations for humanitarian activities, timely advice and direction on areas which are considered not safe for such activities, relocations of humanitarian workers from danger zones, hostage negotiations and regular security briefings.

D. Internally displaced persons

26. The enduring phenomenon of internal displacement in the Sudan, both for war-related reasons and from natural disasters such as drought and floods, continues to pose a formidable challenge. The United Nations and its humanitarian partners remain strongly committed to assisting an estimated 4 million internally displaced persons countrywide and to facilitating longer-term solutions in the current context of endemic conflict. Internally displaced persons are particularly concentrated in the Khartoum area, where the United Nations, in collaboration with the Government, is carrying out a major resettlement programme.

27. At the November 2000 meeting of TCHA in Geneva, both the Government and SPLM/A underlined their commitment to the freedom of movement of all Sudanese within the territory of the State of the Sudan. Both parties urged the international humanitarian community to devote more attention to assisting the resolution of chronic problems arising from internal displacement. All three parties — the Government, SPLM/A and the United Nations — agreed on the particular importance of assisting, where possible, the processes of voluntary and spontaneous return of internally displaced persons.

28. During the reporting period, further major displacement occurred in various parts of the country, for example the Upper Nile/Jonglei region, as a result of conflict and drought, Bahr al-Ghazal and East Equatoria, as a result of conflict, and western and eastern Sudan, as a result of drought. Estimates of the total number displaced over the last two years are in excess of 100,000 and far exceed the numbers of reported spontaneous returns that have taken place, estimated at 25,000 persons. Other population movements owing to economic pressures on areas of origin remain erratic but noticeable.

29. A United Nations comprehensive strategy for dealing with the question of internally displaced persons in the Sudan features surveys and profiling of such persons; model projects for resettlement, integration, and return to places of origin; capacity-building of Government and administration; and the establishment and development of a database. The United Nations also continues to assist the relevant authorities in the Sudan and other humanitarian actors in respect of acute emergency situations of displacement which arise on a regular basis.

E. Non-governmental organizations

30. Since July 1999 international NGOs based in Khartoum have continued working in all of the emergency-affected regions controlled by the Government, with the exception of Blue Nile, where international humanitarian access has not been permitted. The number of active and registered international NGOs working out of Khartoum increased to 28 during the reporting period, several of whom were key implementing partners for WFP, UNICEF and other United Nations agencies for programmes involving United Nations inputs such as food, agricultural items, water supply, sanitation and health and nutrition. International NGOs were also key to humanitarian responses to the emergency in Unity State, the drought in western Sudan and the recent emergency involving internally displaced persons in south Darfur arising from the SPLM/A offensive in Bahr al-Ghazal.

31. The OLS southern sector consortium, composed of over 40 NGOs and five United Nations agencies, continued to provide humanitarian assistance to areas affected by the conflict and insecurity in rebel-held areas. Assistance provided to these areas ranged from emergency aid to sustainable interventions in the context of peace-building and peace dividends to populations in areas that have demonstrated consistent stability. Security coverage was provided to over 500 humanitarian workers throughout this period by the United Nations security officers, supported by round-the-clock radio communications cover from the United Nations/OLS forward operational and logistics base in Lokichoggio.

32. Because of the increased security capacity of the United Nations and improved security coordination with the Organization during the reporting period, international NGOs enjoyed a higher level of security coverage and were assisted by the United Nations in several cases where the safety and security of international NGO personnel were at stake. Similarly, overall humanitarian coordination between the United Nations and international NGOs in the northern sector improved with the evolution of the Humanitarian Aid Forum in Khartoum as an appropriate coordination and information-sharing mechanism.

33. Programme coordination as well as strategic coordination among humanitarian actors in rebel-held areas of the Sudan continued to improve. The United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal process offered opportunities to partner organizations to be equally represented through this planning and strategic process led by the United Nations humanitarian coordination system. Forward planning for southern sector humanitarian action continued to be hampered by unpredictable access denials and insecurity in areas under rebel control, allowing fewer possibilities for wider sustainable interventions in such areas.

34. Liaison with OCHA, in Khartoum, Nairobi and the field, continued to prove useful both to international NGOs and the United Nations, particularly for addressing access and humanitarian environment issues such as mobile radio communications. However, there still remained room for progress in the area of working with national and local bureaucracies, which continued to suffer from inadequate internal communications and capacity, creating operational stumbling blocks to varying degrees for the international NGO community. Additionally, burdensome administrative requirements imposed by both the Government of the Sudan and SPLM/A for travel permits and similar documents continue to complicate relief operations.

35. The international NGO Forum in Khartoum continued its monthly meetings during the reporting period. A number of issues that have arisen over the period call for better communication and closer working relationships and coordination between international NGOs working in northern and southern sectors of the Sudan.

F. Relief food assistance

36. Food insecurity, increasingly fragile coping mechanisms and poor health have over the years become the norm for several million Sudanese civilians, owing to the complex inter-action of contributing factors. Prolonged civil war and related insecurity has given rise to continuing population displacement, disruption of agriculture, destruction of assets through raiding and looting and restricted access to markets. Agricultural and livestock production has been further affected by recurrent drought and floods and by pest attacks on crops and disease in livestock. While local peace initiatives brought together previously warring peoples into reconciliation, new enmities continued to flare up elsewhere.

37. Under these volatile security conditions, WFP met the food aid needs of the war and drought-affected population through the continuation of emergency operations. WFP has, namely, developed an emergency and logistics capability for prompt assistance, which promotes household food security and strengthens existing coping mechanisms. WFP emergency operations from 15 July 1999 to 15 July 2001 have helped to save lives, arrest the deterioration of the nutritional status of targeted populations, and stabilizing the food security situation in the most severely affected areas. During the above-mentioned period, a total of 216,334 tons of assorted food and related commodities have been provided to 2.6 million people. Females account for 53 per cent of the beneficiaries, the majority of whom were mothers and children. In areas of relative stability, WFP has sought to address basic social needs, with an emphasis on improving the lives of women and children in rural areas and internally displaced persons camps.

38. In 1998, malnutrition rates were exceptionally high in the Sudan, particularly in most parts of the Bahr al-Ghazal region, where they reached 45 per cent. These rates declined to less than 9 per cent in most of that region during 1999 and in early 2000 as a result of relief food aid. Unfortunately, by mid-2000, the rate began to increase again, particularly in Bahr al-Ghazal for areas outside the Government-controlled towns. The enforced withdrawal of a large number of NGOs as implementing partners was a contributing factor to this state of affairs. In many areas, insecurity combined with crop failure for both planting seasons have also caused a decline in nutritional standards.

39. Over the last two years, WFP has begun to move gradually and partly from general food distribution towards selective feeding programmes targeted at and controlled by women and girls. Emergency school feeding activities were carried out in transitional zones, as well as in internally displaced persons camps in conflict areas. In addition, WFP provided food aid through national and international NGOs. Regular joint needs assessments, registration, verification of beneficiary figures and distribution monitoring are undertaken with NGOs, humanitarian counterparts and other United Nations agencies. Food aid is also provided with and through relief committees.

G. Non-food assistance

Household food security

40. In the household food security (HFS) sector, the focus over the course of the reporting period continued to be on agriculture, livestock and fisheries and on efforts to build a measure of sustainability in the production and consumption of food. A chronic shortage of funds notwithstanding, UNICEF and later the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have led these efforts, supported where appropriate by WFP. In 2000, FAO joined hands with UNICEF in the implementation of the ongoing HFS project in the war-affected zones in southern Sudan. Overlap of interventions and activities included seeds and tools, livestock and fisheries. At the end of 2000, an agreement was reached with UNICEF on the handover of the HFS sector to FAO. The following activities took place in the course of the year:

- UNICEF and FAO assisted communities with agricultural activities by distributing 700 tons of seed, 22 tons of hand tools for cultivation and 12 tons of fishing equipment;
- UNICEF also assisted fishing communities with fishing hooks and twine and helped with the establishment of nine pilot fisheries associations;
- Seventy-five farmers and trainers were trained in the establishment and running of home gardens;
- Ox-plough training took place in Rumbek, which has significantly increased yields. Two hundred seven ox-ploughs were distributed;
- One thousand tons of seeds that would have been lost owing to surplus and lack of storage capacity were salvaged with assistance from the United States Agency for International Development;
- In 2000, 435,441 livestock vaccinations were completed, significantly less than in 1999. The lower numbers were due to the withdrawal of NGOs over the issue of the memorandum of understanding;
- Outbreak reporting procedures were improved during the year and all reported outbreaks of rinderpest were investigated and found to be false.

41. During 2001, FAO progressively took over from UNICEF HFS activities for both northern and southern sectors of the Sudan humanitarian programme: the agricultural component in January; the livestock component in June; and the fisheries component in July. This includes the Nuba Mountains, where FAO has been designated the lead agency in food security together with WFP, and where some quantities of seeds and tools have been provided on an emergency basis. Seeds and tools have also been provided to other parts of the Sudan on a similar basis, including areas in the south and in the western areas of Darfur and Kordofan.

42. FAO currently implements 14 humanitarian projects worth US$ 4.2 million for the benefit of more than 300,000 war and drought-affected households in both the southern and northern sectors of the humanitarian programme. FAO is also actively involved in assisting current efforts to protect livestock herds from the threat of rinderpest.

Nutrition and health

43. Since mid-December 2000, a sharp rise in overall malnutrition rates was observed, moving from the 10-15 per cent range observed for most locations since 1999 to 15-30 per cent in both Government and non-Government-held areas. The most affected areas are Unity State (30 per cent), Bahr al-Ghazal (28 per cent), Upper Nile and Jonglei (21 per cent), Darfur (21.6 per cent) and Kordofan (21 per cent). Rates have been difficult to assess in East Equatoria owing to insecurity. In internally displaced persons camps, where food aid intervention was inadequate because of breaks in the food pipeline, malnutrition rates exceeded 15 per cent. Severe malnutrition ranged from 2.7 per cent in Red Sea State and north Darfur to over 4.7 per cent in Unity State.

44. The situation is critical and can be attributed to a combination of escalating conflict with consequent displacement, and debilitating drought coinciding with seasonal hunger gaps and poor medical care. Interruptions to food aid pipelines have also had adverse effects in the most vulnerable circumstances. The outlook in respect of nutrition levels therefore remains fragile, with a possible further deterioration in areas not accessible to international humanitarian aid. Intensive and higher food needs countrywide will therefore be required until the end of 2001. WFP will intensify its support to feeding centres managed by specialized NGOs and partners.

45. Between September and November 1999, when northern Sudan was heavily flooded, over 6,000 cases of acute gastro-enteritis were reported in 14 northern states. UNICEF pre-positioned essential drugs and other supplies to treat 1.2 million cases of different diseases. At around the same time the Sudan experienced a sharp shortfall in intravenous fluids, UNICEF airlifted 66,000 bottles to manage 11,000 cases of watery diarrhoea.

46. In the wake of the Ethiopian and Eritrean war in May 2000, when the flight of 86,000 persons into Kassala created an emergency crisis, UNICEF provided plastic sheeting, insecticide-treated bed nets and nutrition inputs to cover at least 20,000 people. UNICEF also supported the immunization of 4,680 children against measles and the vaccination of 34,000 at risk against meningitis. Moreover, it provided essential drugs for NGOs and the State Ministry of Health of Kassala, enabling them to manage 700,000 clinical cases of diseases in 12 months. Other much-needed environmental supplies made it possible to avert an outbreak of cholera and relapsing fever. In July and August 2000, over 70,000 civilians, caught in the crossfire of warring factions in Unity State, converged upon Bentiu and Rubkona for safety. UNICEF immunized over 5,000 children (from 6 months to 12 years of age) against measles and provided 3 tons of essential drugs, UNIMIX, high-calorie compact food, bed nets, insecticides and disinfectants.

47. During the first part of 2001, UNICEF supported an emergency measles campaign in three drought-affected northern states, targeting 512,000 children between the ages of 9 and 59 months and an accelerated campaign in seven southern states, targeting 1.8 million persons. Over the same period, for emergency preparedness in the drought-affected northern states, UNICEF pre-positioned enough essential drugs and nutrition supplies to benefit 1.4 million persons for nine months. A maternal and neo-natal tetanus campaign vaccinated 282,000 women in four states in the north. In addition, from early June 2001, more than 30,000 persons were displaced owing to hostilities in Bahr al-Ghazal. UNICEF, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and NGOs, provided 2 tons of essential drugs, 600 cartons of BP5 (high-energy compact food), 100 tons of UNIMIX and 18,000 insecticide-treated bed nets. An

emergency measles campaign was conducted among 2,300 children in a three-week period.

48. Periodic epidemics of meningitis continue to demand close attention. By the end of June 2000 all states in Government-controlled areas had reported 5,578 cases and 433 deaths. For 2001, the disease appeared first in Bahr al-Jabal state, which reported 3,155 cases with 223 deaths. During the same period, other states reported approaching the epidemic threshold of 5-10 cases per 100,000 population. The amount of vaccines distributed was 2,463,160 doses.

49. In the continuing campaign to eradicate poliomyelitis, the Government of the Sudan, rebel authorities, WHO, UNICEF and NGOs have vaccinated over 6 million children in each round since July 1999. For the first time, this included the rebel-controlled areas of the Nuba Mountains, although for the most recent round, in March 2001, the Government did not allow access on time. Vitamin A supplement was applied twice a year to children between the ages of 6 to 59 months in order to reduce child mortality. With the assistance of WHO, the Government has strengthened its surveillance system to end circulation of the poliomyelitis virus by late 2002.

50. In the rebel-held areas, OLS agencies reported administering the following vaccines in 2000: 416,800 tetanus toxoid (TT); 584,450 measles; 375,800 bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG); 610,610 diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus toxoid (DPT); 635,900 poliomyelitis; 30,500 meningitis. A special campaign in Upper Nile reached 28,000 children with measles vaccinations. Also in rebel areas, UNICEF provided an average of 130 essential drug kits monthly through NGO partners to combat illness. A new HIV/AIDS awareness initiative was introduced, increasing general awareness. UNICEF and WHO also investigated 34 outbreak reports in rebel-held locations during 2000 and responded with emergency supplies and technical assistance.

Water and environmental sanitation

51. Water and environmental sanitation interventions by UNICEF in the war and drought-affected areas during the reporting period benefited a total of approximately 750,000 persons, including school children. This assistance was delivered through the construction and rehabilitation of water schemes and development of water sources, the construction of household and school latrines and through health and hygiene education campaigns. In particular, guinea worm eradication activities were supported by provision of safe drinking water for the endemic villages, filter materials, medical kits, logistics, surveillance and training. These interventions contributed to a reduction in the number of reported cases from 100,940 in 1996 to 54,019 in 2000.

52. UNICEF, with the Government of the Sudan, constructed a new water plant for Malakal to benefit over 70,000 persons and for Bentiu to benefit 30,000 persons and installed or improved 260 hand pumps in Wau, Raga, Aweil, Juba and South Kordofan to benefit 65,000 persons. In addition, 1,000 hand pumps were rehabilitated to benefit 250,000 persons and 44 water yards in the transitional zone and Kordofan were rehabilitated to benefit 100,000 persons. In Government-controlled areas, approximately 4,000 household latrines and 60 school latrines were constructed in, inter alia, Juba, Wau, Raga, Malakal, Abyei, Meiram and internally displaced persons camps in transitional zones to benefit approximately 58,000 persons. Village health committees and hand pump mechanics were to take responsibility for sustaining the sources and delivering services to their communities.

53. In rebel-held locations in southern Sudan, UNICEF and OLS agencies created 631 new water sources and rehabilitated 555 existing ones. In addition, 919 Sudanese were trained in various aspects of the care of water sources. They are used as village-level caretakers and ensure the continued provision of quality water sources under the supervision of OLS agencies. In rebel-held areas, hygiene and sanitation training took place, with at least 3,000 families building their own latrines as a result during 2000. Additional latrines were supported through the work of OLS agencies.

Emergency education

54. UNICEF support for emergency education in the Government-controlled areas achieved some progress during the reporting period. In the war-affected areas, 10 classrooms were reconstructed with permanent materials and 99 others were rehabilitated using semi-permanent materials, benefiting at least 6,540 pupils. Three hundred sixty benches and desks were provided for nine basic schools in Equatoria to seat 1,800 children. Also, school uniforms and plastic shoes were provided to 1,000 internally displaced girls in the war-

affected areas as incentives for girls to participate in schooling and to comply with dress codes. Birth certificates were provided to 1,000 displaced school children in southern Kordofan and southern Darfur states. Five hundred fifty school kits were provided to meet the needs of 5,000 internally displaced children and over 500 teachers were trained in the three cycles of the new curriculum to expose them to new contents and improved teaching methods. Support was further given to the National Curriculum Development Centre to develop guidelines for the Peace Education Programme in Basic Schools in the Sudan.

55. Southern sector locations similarly report progress with continued coordination of teacher training and the provision of educational supplies. In particular, UNICEF was instrumental in increasing the number of implementing NGOs in the under-served area of Bahr al-Ghazal. UNICEF also supported a number of new teacher training initiatives and brought together education coordinators from all over southern Sudan to discuss education in the region.

56. A major breakthrough in establishing baseline information on education took place in 1999, with the advent of the School Baseline Assessment project. Some 500 schools were assessed and the information collected is to be used for future planning. UNICEF also provided 1,700 schools with school materials, reaching over 300,000 children, and 20,000 children in emergency situations benefited from emergency school kits. Innovations such as the Distance Education Programme to combat low training levels in teachers and the Life Skills Programme to target hard-to-reach children and create "second chance" opportunities for children in special circumstances were also developed.

Rights, child protection and peace-building

57. In 1999, UNICEF began to mainstream rights, child protection, gender and peace-building across the work of all its programmes. In practice, this has resulted in the water and sanitation programme addressing the role of water availability as a factor in producing inter-community tension and ensuring service is provided in such a way as to deal with this matter. Programming for children in need of special protection measures focused on addressing child abduction by militia forces and providing support to adults and children escaping from the Ugandan armed opposition group, the Lord's Resistance Army. In 1999, UNICEF began to support the Committee for the Eradication of the Abduction of Women and Children, which had been established at the initiative of the Government of the Sudan. In collaboration with Save the Children-UK, 670 abducted women and children were reunified with their families in southern and western Sudan. In mid-2001, another 270 were in transit or foster care pending reunification. Progress on identifying abducted women and children was slow, and, after May 2000, lack of official permission and insecurity prevented further cross-line reunification. New abductions took place in 2000 and 2001.

58. Between 1999 and the middle of 2001, over 300 escaping members of the Lord's Resistance Army passed through a UNICEF-supported transit care system established with the Government and, latterly, the International Organization for Migration and Save the Children-UK, to facilitate return to Uganda. Most escaped around Juba and were handed over to child protection agencies by the Sudanese military, to be given care and protection in Juba and Khartoum pending being flown to Uganda. The numbers of persons escaping appeared to be increasing in mid-2001.

59. UNICEF supported a women-led peace initiative seeking to promote reconciliation between two sections of the Nuer community in Upper Nile. A series of training workshops were organized around this process, including on the use of radio for peace-building. Other conflict-resolution initiatives supported included meetings between communities in south Kordofan and, in December 2000, a week of peace activities in schools in Wau. Peace-building focal points were supported in five Sudanese universities. Meanwhile, UNICEF and a number of NGOs, among them the national NGO, Child Rights Watch, organized workshops on the rights of the child and child protection for the military, police, journalists and judiciary.

60. In February 2001, years of discussion and advocacy culminated in the single largest airlift of demobilized child soldiers in the history of UNICEF. SPLM/A, holding to agreements made with UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy in 2000, demobilized many of the children in its ranks and handed them over to the Fund. UNICEF moved the children out of conflict areas to the relative security of Rumbek County. Mobilizing support from donors and interested agencies, UNICEF coordinated the establishment of transit centres and the provision of

basic services to the children while they waited tracing and reunification with their home communities. Services include water and sanitation, provision of food, health care, recreational activities, life skills training and, most importantly, education.

61. Despite initial difficulties, UNICEF has pressed forward with plans to reunify the children with families and by mid-July was in the final stages of preparation. An essential part of this process is the preparation of the home communities for the return of the children. This includes advocacy, mobilization and the provision of services where necessary. Bolstering the educational structures in the children's home areas has been a primary concern and one which UNICEF continues to address. The reunification was set to begin in late July and early August 2001.

62. In the rebel-held locations of southern Sudan, UNICEF developed a human rights training manual and the Rights Awareness Teams presented 12 workshops to 600 people. UNICEF trained SPLA officers in basic human rights and supported 32 landmine awareness workshops, reaching 4,500 people with safety messages. Southern Sudanese lawyers were also introduced to international standards of juvenile justice. The peace-building section trained 70 Sudanese trainers in the Future Search methodology, which explores common ground for community action, and supported the People-to-People Peace and Reconciliation Conference in Liliir, organized by the New Sudan Council of Churches.

H. Assistance to refugees

63. During the reporting period, 147,302 Eritrean and 11,889 Ethiopian camp-based refugees received basic material and protection assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). An estimated 232,000 urban refugees received limited material assistance and are still covered by the Office's protection mandate. The only durable solution option for this group would be repatriation to their countries of origin. Most of these refugees are Eritreans, living mainly in Khartoum, Kassala, Gedaref and Port Sudan. The rest are Ethiopians, Chadians, Ugandans and others.

64. Following consultations between UNHCR and the Governments of the Sudan and Eritrea, a Tripartite Agreement was signed in Geneva on 7 April 2000 between the State of Eritrea, the Republic of the Sudan and UNHCR. The Agreement established, among other things, the main legal framework for the voluntary repatriation of 160,000 Eritrean refugees from the Sudan and their integration in Eritrea. In accordance with the Agreement, and in order to elaborate further on an operational framework, a Tripartite Repatriation Commission was convened in Asmara, Eritrea, at the end of April 2000. Another agreement was signed underlining the principles governing the actual repatriation operation.

65. At the end of the registration exercise in May 2000, a total of 9,222 individuals had been registered for voluntary repatriation. Arrangements and plans had been finalized to move the first group of returnees towards the end of May, when war suddenly broke out between Eritrea and Ethiopia, resulting in some 95,000 Eritrean nationals fleeing to the Sudan in search of refuge. As a result, the Eritrean repatriation process was suspended pending the normalization of the political situation in Eritrea. After the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia abated, UNHCR, together with the Eritrean Government, which provided its own trucks, assisted some 25,000 individuals from the new influx of Eritreans to repatriate to Eritrea in an organized manner.

66. During the first half of 2001, UNHCR in the Sudan stepped up the promotion of voluntary repatriation of all Eritrean refugees, which could not take place in 2000 owing to the border conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. UNHCR plans to assist 62,000 Eritrean refugees, comprising the residual new caseload of 27,000 and some 35,000 from the old caseload who had expressed their willingness to return home voluntarily. In order to facilitate this objective, a Tripartite Meeting, comprising the Governments of the Sudan and Eritrea and UNHCR, was held in Khartoum from 21 to 23 April 2001, and formulated the operational strategy for a full-scale repatriation to Eritrea covering the years 2001 and 2002. By mid-June 2001, a total of 15,000 Eritrean refugees had already been repatriated.

67. The implementation of the Cessation Clause for the pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees, which came into effect in March 2000, was finalized in the Sudan by the end of March 2001. The delay was caused by the border conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia in May 2000. The emergency operation was normalized by August 2000 and UNHCR embarked on the repatriation

of those pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees who had registered for voluntary repatriation to Ethiopia. By the end of March 2001, a total of 12,000 pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees had been assisted to repatriate voluntarily, while those with compelling reasons not to repatriate were screened jointly by UNHCR and the Sudan Commissioner of Refugees. Of the 3,000 applicants who were interviewed, the screening exercise resulted in some 500 families being assessed as having compelling reasons to remain in the Sudan and will continue to benefit from the protection and assistance of UNHCR. The rest of the applicants screened, who were found not to have compelling reasons but who wished to remain in the Sudan, were advised to regularize their status with the authorities.

68. Of the estimated 8,547 Ugandan refugees living in southern Sudan, UNHCR assisted 277 to repatriate during 2000. This caseload continued to be provided with international protection assistance during the reporting period.

69. In 2000, UNHCR successfully finalized the repatriation of 266 Congolese refugees in Juba. These individuals were part of the remaining group of 318 Congolese women and children in Juba who were of concern to UNHCR. The remaining 52 Congolese refugees could not be accounted for and that concluded the involvement of UNHCR for this caseload.

70. The caseload of 43 individuals of Somali origin residing in the Fau 5 camp, together with Eritrean refugees, received protection, care and maintenance from 1995 to the present. The Somali refugees had requested resettlement to a third country, but after the interviews, most of them did not meet the requirements. The final durable solution for this caseload remains repatriation to Somalia.

IV. Action taken by Member States

71. International funding for the United Nations humanitarian operations in the Sudan is particularly important since these operations remain the principal means by which hundreds of thousands of civilians meet their basic needs in an overwhelming situation of armed conflict. To support its humanitarian, relief and rehabilitation needs in the Sudan, the United Nations issued Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeals for each of the three calendar years covered by the period of the present report, that is, 1999, 2000 and 2001. For the current 2001 Appeal, four revisions had been issued by mid-July 2001 to cover drought in western Sudan, the demobilization of child soldiers, preventive measures against rinderpest disease in livestock and the latest crisis of conflict-related internal displacement in Bahr al-Ghazal and Darfur.

72. To mid-July 2001, funds and supplies amounting to just under $148 million (about 60 per cent of the total amount requested) had been received and/or committed in response to the 2001 Appeal, with the food sector funded at 75 per cent and the non-food sector at 30 per cent. Additional funding support is still urgently required if the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable communities, including the substantial numbers of internally displaced persons, are to be met.

73. Comprehensive information on funding for the Sudan humanitarian programme, including OLS, covering contributions by specific donors, is available on the web site http://www.reliefweb.int.

V. Concluding observations

74. For more than four decades, the Sudanese people have had to bear the brunt of the longest running civil war in Africa. The war, combined with periodic droughts and floods, has exacerbated the plight of already fragile communities. The humanitarian programme for the Sudan was designed primarily to counter the adverse effects of the war on the most vulnerable and will undoubtedly be necessary as long as the conflict continues. Operation Lifeline Sudan, together with its humanitarian partners on the ground, continues to operate under particularly difficult circumstances, including lack of access, growing insecurity and ongoing displacement of populations.

75. Environmental and security conditions continue to deteriorate, with the prospects for malnutrition and vulnerability likely to increase towards the end of 2001. Humanitarian assistance is at best slowing the overall deterioration of the situation. In this context, only a negotiated and lasting peace settlement between the parties, supported by local and regional actors and the international community as a whole, can provide the fundamental solution. All peace efforts, local and international, must be actively pursued and encouraged by all relevant parties.

76. Short of a peace settlement and for the sake of the civilian population, the parties to the conflict must

work at reinstating humanitarian ceasefires. Those that were in effect from July 1998 to July 2000 contributed, however little, to containing armed confrontation.

77. Humanitarian action in the Sudan must strive to remain transparent, impartial, neutral and accountable. It is also paramount to ensure the respect by all signatories of the OLS agreements for unrestricted humanitarian access and to fulfil the trilateral agreements defining the conditions for the provision of relief aid in the Sudan, including the Beneficiary and Security Protocols reached within the framework of TCHA. Given the limited humanitarian access and volatile security conditions (especially in southern Sudan), all efforts must be continued to implement these accords fully.

78. In view of the situation in the Sudan, increased humanitarian access, safety and protection of civilians, adequate resources and guaranteed security for humanitarian workers remain the core conditions of the aid programme. It is especially important for the humanitarian action in critical areas of southern Sudan to benefit from an extension of the humanitarian space and to operate with minimal security guarantees.